103

Respectfully presented by
the author

NARRATIVE

OF THE FAILURE OF AN ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH

A GREAT NATIONAL INSTITUTION,

INTENDED, MORE ESPECIALLY, FOR THE

Reception of Orphan Children of Officers of the British Army;

BUT SO CONSTITUTED AS TO FORM, AT THE SAME TIME,

A HIGHLY RESPECTABLE YET ECONOMICAL SEMINARY,

FOR THE

EDUCATION OF OFFICERS SONS & DAUGHTERS,

IN GENERAL.

By Major R. LACHLAN, late 17th Regiment.

CONTAINING, AMONG OTHER INTERESTING DOCUMENTS,

THE ORIGINAL PROSPECTUS, AS PUBLISHED IN 1834,

AND

COPIES OF CORRESPONDENCE WHICH THEN TOOK PLACE BETWEEN THE AUTHOR AND HIS GRACE THE LATE DUKE OF WELLINGTON; THE PRIVATE SECRETARY OF H. R. H. THE DUCHESS OF KENT, THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, &C.; AND, SINCE THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S DEATH, WITH H. R. H. PRINCE ALBERT, LORD VISCOUNT HARDINGE, AND OTHER EMINENT INDIVIDUALS CONNECTED WITH THE FOUNDATION OF THE WELLINGTON COLLEGE.

MONTREAL, CANADA:

PRINTED BY MOORE, OWLER & STEVENSON, 42 St. Francois Xavier Street.

1854.

DEDICATION.

To the earnest attention of the illustrious and distinguished Governors of the Wellington College in particular, and of the gallant Officers of the Royal Army and the honorable East India Company's Service in general, the last zealous effort in behalf of a great and good cause, manifested in the following pages, is most respectfully dedicated, by their very obedient Servant,

THE AUTHOR.

108

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2014

https://archive.org/details/narrativeoffailu00lach

PREFATORY REMARKS TO THE ORIGINAL PROSPECTUS.

(By accident neglected to have been placed after the Title of that Documen. as Printed in this Edition. See page 10.)

The leading features of the following imperfect Sketch were traced by the Writer above nine years ago; but though even then deeply impressed with the many important advantages derivable from the existence of a Great National Institution such as therein contemplated, so little did he regard the most strenuous efforts of so obscure an Individual likely to influence its Foundation, however desirable, that he seldom allowed his thoughts on the subject to transpire, beyond the narrow circle of private friendship.

His attention having, however, been about three years ago directed to the auspicious preliminaries then in progress for the Establishment of a congenial though more limited Institution—now happily in full of operation—*for the reception of the Sons of Officers of the Naval Service*, coupled with the encouraging circumstance of the successful agitator of that meritorious undertaking being of a rank and station as little likely to be influenced as himself,—the natural consequence was the immediate ardent revival of his long cherished hopes in favour of the foundation of *A Royal Military Institution and Officers' Orphan Asylum*, and a more sanguine review of his long dormant Notes on the subject. Here, however, he was again induced to pause, in the hope of finding the noble example set by the Sister Service generously emulated by his own, under the guidance of Officers of high rank and commanding influence; but month after month continuing to elapse, without any symptoms of the realization of that expectation, and it therefore appearing desirable that a *beginning* should be made *somewhere*, he was led to waive further hesitation, and to contribute at once "the little all" in his power towards the attainment of so important a national object, by volunteering his humble services as *Pioneer* on the occasion. The result was the final arrangement of the matter contained in the following pages, and the subsequent submission of the same in more than one influential quarter, preparatory to being laid before the Army and the Public; but in consequence of the agitated and conflicting state of the national feelings at that eventful period, it was afterwards thought advisable to reserve the final consideration of the subject for more calm and dispassionate times.

Such having now comparatively arrived, and the attention of the Army having recently been called towards benevolent objects, not only in unison with, but actually embraced by, the great undertaking in contemplation, he has been encouraged to avail himself of the favourable moment for at once submitting the merits of the question to the decisive

test of general investigation. How far that purpose has been accomplished in the following humble outline, it is now for others to decide. But it is hoped that one or two preliminary remarks will not be deemed here out of place. Should it appear to some, for instance, that the writer's observations and calculations are in some respects less to the point than ought to have been the case in a Prospectus of the kind, he trusts it will be a sufficient apology to state, that they were adopted amid all the disadvantages of cottage retirement, while mingling little with the world, and remote from sources of more direct information, which though unattainable by him, might be readily available by those residing in the vicinity of the Metropolis. Should it, on the other hand, appear that he has occasionally gone more into detail than was necessary, he begs it may not be ascribed to any conceit in the fancied merit of his own opinions, but simply to the circumstance, that, it being necessary to choose some tangible unpretending form in which to embody his ideas, and having himself experienced that in proportion as the different *parts* of his first outline were filled in and developed, the more he became impressed with its general feasibility *as a whole*, he naturally hoped that a similar satisfactory effect might be produced in the same way on others, and he was accordingly led to retain the desultory arrangement followed, in preference to a more elaborate though perhaps more concise view of the subject. Add to which, he was induced to think that many of his Readers, who might for the first time turn their attention to the great object in prospect, might prefer being at once apprised of the express grounds on which its advocate had founded his anticipations of success, to having either the trouble of arranging a plan for themselves or referring to a more meagre outline, so devoid of *leading* particulars as to afford little aid in readily criticising or appreciating the merits of the question. He trusts, therefore, that if he has erred in the course which he has in this instance adopted, his error will be found on the safer side.

The most strenuous efforts of so obscure an individual may, after all, be little likely to influence the foundation of so noble a superstructure as that contemplated by him; but if, like the meritorious rival Institution already alluded to, it shall be found to possess in itself *intrinsic* claims to public estimation, why should it despair of a similar fortunate fate? Should it, on the other hand, unhappily prove abortive, from either irremedial inherent defects or insurmountable *external* obstacles, its proposer may still have the satisfaction of being thereby instrumental in calling into existence some better digested undertaking, and he will, at the worst, have the undeniable consolation of having failed in a good cause.

Such being the feelings with which these humble "Revived Thoughts," on a vitally interesting subject, are laid open to the investigation of the Officers of the British Army, by one who has been happily associated with them for twenty-five years, he will not permit himself to doubt the indulgent spirit with which, in despite of all their imperfections, they will be received by the Service; and he therefore freely and frankly commits them to their fate.

Feby., 1834.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

While revolving in my mind a short sketch which I had prepared of what I thought would prove the most suitable introduction to the following pages, on venturing to lay them before an indulgent British public, I was naturally induced to recur to a synopsis of their component materials, given in a letter which I recently addressed to the Editor of the Naval and Military Gazette,—as a patriotic co-advocate of the same good work; and I was thereby at once led to the conclusion, that there could be no more appropriate prefatory view of the subject than what that letter contained; and the consequence was, that the remarks which I had prepared were thrown aside, and the following copy of that letter adopted in their stead—even at the risk of the possible non-appearance of the originl in the pages of the Gazette.

MONTREAL, 24th July, 1854.

SIR,

You will perhaps recognize in the signature attached to this communication that of an individual who, some twenty years ago, became, through the medium of the Naval and Military Gazette, the proposer and advocate of the foundation of a great national Institution, a printed prospectus of which was then laid before the British army, intended more especially for the reception of Officers' *Orphans*, of *both* sexes, but so constituted as to form also a highly respectable yet economical Seminary, for the Education of Officers' Children generally, and to which her present Majesty and her royal mother were graciously pleased to offer to be patronesses; but that it was soon afterwards found expedient to postpone the further agitation of the project, whatever might be its merits, in consequence of the late Duke of Wellington having unfortunately expressed an opinion adverse to its successful accomplishment.

You will also perhaps remember that on the death of that illustrious personage, the agitation of the matter was revived, and that in consequence of letters then most respectfully addressed by me to H.R.H. Prince Albert and Lord Hardinge, I for some time cherished a hope that the general plan of the same Institution would still be found worthy of favorable attention, if not of modified adoption, by whatever Board might be appointed to bring the then proposed great Wellington memorial to maturity, and that in the hope of humbly aiding in so excellent a work, I was induced to offer to proceed from this country to England, if required, to contribute such further general information as my long accu-

mulated voluminous correspondence and numerous detached memoranda on the subject might afford; or, if thought preferable, to reply from hence to any queries that might be put to me on particular points.

Not only, however, have all these hopes been doomed to be disappointed, but I have lately had the additional mortification of noticing in a Canadian journal, a brief "notice" of a *Report* of the Governors of that proposed great National Institution, the Wellington College, from which it would appear that the subscriptions exceed £105,000; that of this sum £20,000 are to be devoted to the erection of the required buildings; and that the remainder—so vested as to yield an annual revenue of about £3000,—is to form the foundation on which it is proposed to maintain, clothe, and educate, in the first instance, only 60 boys, *giving a preference to orphans*, divided into three classes of 20 boys, each paying £10, £15, or £20, according to the class to which he belongs; and that there shall hereafter be a further "extension of the original design," (?) to a fourth class consisting of 40 boys, each paying £30 per annum; thus making 100 pupils in all, contributing from £10 to £30 each!

Taking it for granted that this is a correct outline of the facts of the case, and bearing in mind that a participation in the very limited benefits arising from such a foundation, is scattered over so vast an aggregate as the whole of the Officers of the united British and Indian Armies, amounting, perhaps to near 30,000 individuals,—of whom about one-tenth may be supposed to be married—I would most respectfully ask whether so thinly sprinkled and uncertain a microscopic boon, and that, too, confined to one sex alone, is worthy of the name of the illustrious commander in whose honor the College is intended to be founded; and whether by such a cold-hearted, contracted arrangement, the unfortunate *orphan*, instead of being *preferred*, is not more likely, from want of the stipulated means, to be altogether *shut out* from any participation in the benefits of the Institution.

Taking this, to me, unsatisfactory view of the subject, as involving the dearest hopes and interests of a large proportion of the gallant members of both services, I cannot refrain from most respectfully entreating, through the medium of your widely circulated columns, that not only the distinguished Governors of the Wellington College, but also both branches of the British Army,—for after 18 years service in India I cannot help taking a deep interest in *both*,—and even the British public at large, will suspend their decision as to the most eligible plan to be adopted in the completion of the great work now in progress, until I shall in the course of a few days be enabled to transmit to Britain a small volume, now in the press, to be entituled, "*Narrative of the Facts connected with the Failure of an Attempt to Establish a great National Institution, intended more especially for the Reception of Officers' Orphans, of both sexes, but so constituted as to form also a highly respectable yet economical Seminary for the Education of Officers' Sons and Daughters in general;*"—to consist chiefly of the following documents, with a few necessary introductory and intermediate observations, viz.:—

PART I.

1. Letter from Major Lachlan to the late Duke of Wellington, dated 27th Nov., 1833, on submitting for his Grace's perusal the MS. draft of

the Prospectus of the proposed Institution, before placing it in the hands of the Printer.

2. The Duke of Wellington's reply, dated 2nd Dec., 1833, on returning the MS.

3. A second letter from Major L. to the Duke of Wellington, dated 30th January, 1834, on transmitting to his Grace a *printed* copy of the same Prospectus ; to which no reply was ever received.

4. That Prospectus, as prepared with much laborious care, and printed and circulated at considerable expense, in every quarter of the world, in which British troops were then serving.

5. Letter from Major L. to Sir John Conroy, Private Secretary to H.R.H. the Duchess of Kent, dated 30th January, 1834, transmitting copies of the Prospectus for presentation to Her Royal Highness and the Princess Victoria.

6. Sir John Conroy's reply, dated 2d February, 1834, expressing their R.H.'s gracious readiness to be Patronesses of the Institution.

7. Letter from Major L. to his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, dated 2d February, 1834, on presenting him with a copy of the same Prospectus.

8. His Grace's reply, dated 17th February, 1834.

9. Extract of Memorandum of a Conversation at Kensington Palace, on the 16th May, 1834, between Sir John Conroy and Major L., on the latter announcing his reluctant postponement of the agitation of the proposed Institution.

PART II.

10. Letter from Major Lachlan to his Royal Highness Prince Albert, first written in October, 1852, on intelligence being received of the death of the Duke of Wellington, but, in deference to public feeling, not despatched till the 1st of December following, earnestly invoking the propicious and powerful auspices of his Royal Highness, in the revival of his long dormant project, as well worthy of adoption in some modified form, as the groundwork of the then proposed Wellington Testimonial.

11. A second letter to his Royal Highness, dated 25th December, 1852, reverting to the same subject, on the promulgation in Canada of the Circular and Prospectus issued from the Horse Guards, 27th November, 1852.

12. Letter from Major L. to Lord Hardinge on the same subjects, dated 25th December, 1852.

13. Copy of the Circular and Prospectus referred to.

14. Extract of letter from Col. Airey, Secretary to Lord Hardinge, replying to No. 12.

15. Letter addressed by Major L. to the Editor of the Naval and Military Gazette, dated 9th February, 1853, vindicating his claim to being the original projector of a great National Institution for the reception of Orphans of Officers of the British Army, and for the Education of their Children generally.

16. Letter from Major L. to the Private Secretary of his Royal Highness Prince Albert, dated 23d February, 1854, respectfully calling attention to the circumstance of the urgent letters, Nos. 10 and 11, being still unacknowledged.

17. Colonel Grey's reply thereto, dated 7th June, 1854, communicated through General Wetherall.

18. Brief notice of report of the Governors of the Wellington College, extracted from U.C. Journal of Education.

To the foregoing descriptive synopsis it is only necessary to add, that I feel strongly persuaded that a knowledge of the contents of several of the above-mentioned documents would prove both interesting and influencial at the present eventful time, in connection with the proposed object of the Wellington Memorial, and that I even venture to entertain a hope, that by an opportune dissemination of the whole, may perhaps be determined how far an Institution holding out to the numerous offspring of so respectable a class as the Officers of the united British and Indian Armies so slender a chance of participation in the benefits derivable from the somewhat invidious and contracted, and, at best, semi-eleemosynary *grades* of Education proposed by the Governors of the Wellington College (as described in No. 18), shall be put in competition with the far more extended, liberal, popular, and (because in a great measure *self-supporting*), truly *British* fabric, so long contemplated by me, as an Institution with which *every* British Officer might, by a trifling annual pecuniary sacrifice, proudly feel himself connected in the honorable double relation of *patron* and *prospective participator in its benefits*, as providing not only a gratuitous home for his unprotected Orphan, if required, but also a respectable yet inexpensive Seminary for the Education of his Children generally.

Trusting that when the proper time arrives, your renewed powerful advocacy of so sacred a cause will not be wanting, I forbear adding more to this lengthened communication than to state that I expect that the promised little volume will be transmitted to England in the course of a fortnight; and that its Author humbly trusts, that, being now a retired *septuagenarian*, with a grown-up family, it will be readily conceded that he can derive little or no personal benefit from the noble object in view, and that this *his last zealous effort* in its behalf, may therefore be generously regarded as emanating from the most disinterested motives.

I have the honor to remain, &c.,

R. Lachlan, late Major 17th Regt.

Having thus boldly "passed the rubicon," I now proceed, with little note or comment, to the plain unvarnished tale narrated in the various documents enumerated in the foregoing letter, leaving the merits of each to be weighed in the balance of unbiassed public opinion; yet doubting not that, *magna est veritas, cet prevxlebit,* and therefore, that the sacred cause of the orphan and of education combined, *will* ultimately prevail.

PART I.

The first document in this section of our subject is the following letter addressed by Major Lachlan to his Grace the Duke of Wellington, on doing himself the honor of transmitting for his perusal the MS. draft of the foregoing sketch, in the hope of the great national object therein contemplated meeting, with not only his Grace's favorable consideration, but eventual patronage.

No. 1.

To Field Marshal His Grace the Duke of Wellington, &c.

Laira Green, Plymouth, 27th Nov., 1833.

May it please your Grace.—Public attention having been lately attracted towards the highly laudable and important object of establishing some kind of seminary for the education of orphans, and the older daughters of Officers of the British Army, and your Grace, as might be fully expected, appearing to be very favorably inclined towards so useful and benevolent an undertaking, I am encouraged to take the liberty of bringing to your notice the accompanying MS. Prospectus of a great National Institution of that nature, intended not only as an appropriate respectable asylum for the unprotected orphan, of either sex, free of expense, but so constituted as to form also a highly respectable seminary for the education of the children of Officers generally, on a scale of magnitude and comprehensive utility, calculated to meet the wants of the whole British Army. I beg leave, at the same time, to state, that the same was drawn up by me more than two years ago, amid all the disadvantages of a retired cottage life, and was then transmitted to Sir Herbert Taylor, at Brighton, in the humble hope of its in the first instance meeting the approving eye of His Majesty, as the *proposed* natural *Patron* of so noble a National Institution, preliminary to its being subjected to the examination of a few of the distinguished Officers at the head of the profession, before being finally laid before the army and the public. Need it be added, that at the head of the illustrious individuals alluded to, every Briton must naturally rank your Grace. But the sober feelings of the nation being about that period either overpowered by the fervor of political reform on the one hand, or cramped by calls for unsparing state retrenchment in every form on the other, I was induced to postpone the further agitation of the great benevolent object in view till the return of more calm and dispassionate times. Such being now, comparatively, the case, I venture to offer the accompanying Prospectus to your Grace's indulgent perusal, in the humble expectation that, however faulty or imperfect it may be as a whole, its leading features will be found deserving of the best attention of one so competent to decide on the degree

of estimation intrinsically their due; and in the firm reliance that, should any approximation to the great undertaking advocated by me be ultimately deemed worthy of national encouragement, your Grace will be among the first to honor and foster it with your powerful influence and support.

Permit me, then, at all events, to indulge a hope that your Grace will condescend to favor me with some expression of your sentiments on the general merits of the plan proposed, imperfect as it necessarily must be; and to add, that should your Grace desire to have an opportunity of further explanations from me personally, I shall be most willing to proceed to London to do myself the honor of waiting your Grace's commands.

In the meantime, permit me to refer your Grace to the "Introductory Remarks" prefixed to the Prospectus, for any explanatory details connected with my venturing to introduce my humble suggestions on the attention of the army.

I have the honor to be,

Your Grace's most obedt. and very humble Servt.,

R. Lachlan, late Major, 17th Regt.

To the foregoing his Grace was pleased to make the following reply:

NO. 2.

London, December 2, 1833.

Sir,—I have had the honor of receiving your letter of the 27th November.

I have returned the paper, to which the letter refers, after perusing it.

It is unnecessary for me to give any opinion on the plan to which that letter relates. The Officers of the British Army are composed of the gentry of the country. It is desirable that they should continue to be of that class of the society of the country.

I have always observed the public of this country to be much opposed to any scheme which might be supposed to have a tendency to render the Officers of the Army a distinct military class. This feeling must be founded on a sense of the public interests. I should be opposed to such a scheme, as it would affect the interests of the Officers of the army.

I don't mean to attribute to the plan under contemplation such an effect. It is liable to the imputation that it separates the Officers of the army and their families from the other classes of the gentry of the country, of which they form a part, and you may rely upon it that it will never be adopted by the Government.

I have the honor to be,

Your most obedient servant,

Wellington.

Robt. Lachlan, Esq., late Major 17th Regt., &c.

Though willing to bow with most respectful deference to so authoritative an opinion, I could not, in the ardour of my philanthropic zeal, combined with my strong feelings as an old officer and anxious father—who

had for years devoted his whole soul to the dispassionate consideration of the subject,—help being persuaded that even his clear-minded Grace might have taken an erroneous hasty glance at the objects proposed, placed as he happened to be in an exalted social position from which a broad *sympathetic* popular view of such a foundation cannot always be correctly taken. I accordingly still went on with my philanthropic labours—unmoved; and on the publication of the Prospectus I considered it my duty to transmit another copy of it to his Grace, accompanied by the following letter.

No. 3.

To Field Marshal His Grace the Duke of Wellington, &c.

Laira Green, Plymouth, 30th January, 1834.

May it please your Grace,—I have once more the honor of submitting, in a more tangible form, to your Grace's leisure attention, the *printed* Prospectus of the proposed Royal Military Institution and Officers' Orphan Asylum, now about to be disseminated for public consideration—in the anxious hope that it will yet be found in many respects deserving of favourable notice, if not of ultimate adoption, in a modified form,—its avowed and only objects being the promotion of a great national good, combined with the furtherance of the best and dearest interests of that army which must ever look up to your Grace as its first friend and benefactor.

It has appeared to your Grace that the adoption of such a measure might be regarded with a jealous eye by the public, as being "liable to the *imputation* of tending to separate the Officers of the army and their families from that class of society (the gentry of the nation) of which they form a part." Permit me most respectfully to observe, with reference to that remark, that the best and most virtuous actions are liable to unjust and erroneous imputations, and that, in fact, one of the great objects in view in the establishment of the proposed Institution was to afford a chance of *preserving* in that respectable position the offspring of many a brave and high spirited man, who—"his poverty but not his will consenting"—must otherwise be doomed to see the child of his hopes *descend* to a far *lower* grade in Society, without the possibility of prevention or relief. And yet, it is well known to your Grace, that many are the gallant officers who have done signal service to their king and country whose only fortune—added to the education of a gentlemen—was their *sword* and their *honor!* Would then an unfeeling or ungrateful country regard with jealousy or otherwise oppose, an institution (mainly supported by funds furnished by the Army itself.) having for its leading hallowed purpose the shielding of the offspring of such men from threatening penury and ruin? Forbid it, every liberal and generous British feeling! Besides which, I trust I may be permitted to add, that even allowing the *imputation* to be by possibility admissible, the only portion of the Army to which it would at all attach, must consist of those Officers alone whose limited means and large families would render them more immediately dependent on the aid of such an endowment: for it is not to be supposed that either the more affluent in circumstances, or the more ele-

vated in rank would be further connected with such an Institution than as benevolent and philanthropic supporters.

As regards that part of the plan which aims at the provision of a protecting home for the often friendless and destitute orphan of the British Officer, it is impossible to conceive that even the shadow of an objection could be raised.

But I have to entreat pardon for this lengthened intrusion upon your Grace of observations which must at once forcibly present themselves to every liberal and enlightened mind, and, above all, to that of the distinguished individual with whom the British Army stands so peculiarly connected. I have therefore the honor to leave the whole merits of the interesting and important subject to your Grace's leisure examination, not doubting of the happiest results to the noble and sacred cause in agitation.

I have the honor to remain,

Your Grace's most obebt. and very humble Servt.,

R. Lachlan, late Major, 17th Regt.

How far his Grace regarded the explanations respectfully advanced in the above letter, satisfactory or otherwise, it is not for me to say. Suffice it to observe, that I was never favored with any reply.

The document next in order, viz., the original Prospectus itself, prepared with much laborious care, and at considerable personal expense, is, verbatim, as follows, with the exception of a few additional notes, rendered necessary by recent events connected with the Wellington College.

No. 4.

ORIGINAL PROSPECTUS:

ENTITULED,

REVIVED THOUGHTS, on the Foundation of a great National Institution, intended more especially for the reception of Orphan Children of Officers of the British Army, but so constituted as to form, at the same time, a highly respectable yet economical Public Seminary for the Education of Officers' Sons and Daughters in general. —By R. Lachlan, late Major 17th Regt.—Plymouth: Nettleton, Printer to His Majesty, 1834.

I.

As regards the high claims of such an Institution to consideration; its most suitable Patrons and appropriate Designation; and its general Nature, Objects, and Extent.

That a great public Institution, such as the foregoing title describes, would be most desirable in every laudable and benevolent, as well as po-

litic, point of view, must be so universally admitted, that it may naturally excite surprise that it should have hitherto remained unattempted, were it not for the formidable bar to its accomplishment presented in the *apparently* almost hopeless prospect of ever realizing Funds sufficiently ample to defray the expense of even a *first Foundation*, far less the subsequent heavy *current disbursements* attending so vast an Establishment. Yet, discouraging as these obstacles may at first sight appear, they will be found very far from insurmountable, when we come to grapple boldly with the question.

The attainment of the first grand step towards success must, of course, in the first instance, depend mainly on the generous efforts of that high-minded and honorable profession, for the immediate benefit of whose offspring it would be expressly destined. It cannot, therefore, be doubted that by the unanimous strenuous co-operation of the different branches of the service, a very handsome general subscription would speedily be realized for such a purpose: but it is also frankly confessed that a vast national undertaking of so decidedly useful and benevolent a character appears to have also strong claims upon the bounty of a fostering Government: add to which, not a little may reasonably be expected from so well grounded an appeal to the British Nation at large, in behalf of the unprotected Orphans of its brave defenders.

The achievement of the second great object will also of course have to rest in a great measure with the Army itself; and no mode of raising funds appears so eligible or so simple as a small regular periodical subscription by the members of every grade, in proportion to their professional income; but, as in the former instance, it might also reasonably hope to be partially aided by Government, as well as by occasional donations and bequests from public and private benefactors.

But to insure a fair chance of laying a solid and lasting foundation for even the most promising superstructure of the kind, it is highly desirable that the work should be commenced under the most powerful and propitious auspices. It should therefore, if possible, aspire to no less exalted *Patronage* than that of *Their most gracious Majesties*, and be of course denominated *The Royal Military Institution, and Officers' Orphan Asylum;* while the rest of the Princes of the Royal Family, the Commander in Chief of the Army, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and the Commanders in Chief of the Indian Armies, of the North American Provinces, and of the Forces in the Mediterranean Stations, together with other distinguished official and influential individuals, should be invited to become its Vice-Patrons, and leading supporters.

Having ventured to advert to the very high auspices under which alone, it is conceived, a noble national undertaking such as that contemplated, should be originated, let us proceed to examine how far it would be worthy of such distinguished countenance. To enter, then, at once into particulars:—The great leading objects of the benevolent and useful Institution proposed should be threefold:

1st.—To furnish a respectable and comfortable Home for the Unprotected Orphan Children of all ranks of Commissioned Officers in the British Army, free of expense, and for whose reception it should be open from the unfortunate moment of parental bereavement, up to a suitable age for commencing their struggles through life—say 16 years—subject to Rules and Regulations to be hereafter considered.

2d.—To promote the respectable establishment in life, on attaining the age of 16, of all such ORPHANS, of either sex, as may be unhappily left altogether dependent on the Institution, by granting to all those who shall close their career in it, in a creditable manner, a certain pecuniary DONATION of, say £200, or such other sum as may be deemed adequate to assist in their outfit, on entering life.*

3d.—To establish, though perhaps at first on a limited scale, a most respectable yet economical SEMINARY for the reception and EDUCATION of the CHILDREN of MILITARY OFFICERS in general, where all, but more especially those belonging to Corps serving abroad, may have the invaluable opportunity of not only bestowing a suitable and congenial Education on their Offspring in the Land of their Fathers, at a moderate charge, but of confiding them, during so critical a period of life, to the fostering protection of a high public guardianship, so well calculated to set a parent's heart at rest, whether in the eventful hour of personal peril, during the trying season of agonizing sickness, or amid the lingering years of exile in insalubrious distant lands, in the service of their country! The period in such instances to be restricted, with regard to both sexes, to from 8 to 16 years of age.

From the foregoing brief sketch it will at once be evident that the details of so extensive and diversified an Institution could not possibly be carried on under one roof or single foundation. It is therefore supposed that it would naturally consist of *two* distinct and separate Establishments; the one destined for the reception of BOYS alone; and the other, of GIRLS, and of INFANTS, of both sexes; and it is calculated, upon data to be noticed hereafter, that the aggregate number of Children, likely to become inmates of the two branches, would be from 1000 to 1100.

Admitting such as probable, let us, without stopping to contemplate the tender care which would await the interesting Infant portion of the Orphan Branch of such an Establishment, at once pass on to consider what might be deemed the most eligible course of Education to be adopted. It may therefore be next observed that such an Institution not being, of course, meant to pretend to any exclusively MILITARY character, but simply to afford to Children admitted into it a sound general Education, suited to their parents' station, and their own prospects in life, the different branches of instruction should, with regard to the Boys, be limited to a thorough knowledge of English, Latin, and French; and Writing, Arithmetic, Geography, and Mathematics; but that such as might be destined for the Army, should, during the last year or two, receive additional instruction in the Elements of Fortification and Gunnery,

* Note 1854. Existing circumstances here induce me to observe that I have ever looked upon the creation of a protecting Home for the Orphan, of both sexes, as the noblest and most valuable part of the proposed hallowed structure; and that I must therefore naturally regard the absence of all provision for the Orphan *Daughters* of Officers as a striking defect in the plan of the Wellington Testimonial. To state the grounds of my convictions on that head would only harrow up the best feelings of our nature. Suffice it then to remark, that if a philanthropic boon is to be conferred upon the Children of an Officer, let not the gentler and weaker sex be entirely overlooked, while their brothers, who may continue to struggle on through life, even in poverty, without a stain upon their father's name, are so exclusively cared for. If further "damning proof" of the necessity of such a measure be wanted, let the annals of depravity and misfortune be consulted, and they will proclaim the indisputable fact that a large proportion of the unhappy female victims of vice in our towns and cities consists of poverty-stricken, unprotected, orphan daughters of *British Officers* and *Clergymen!*

and general Military Tactics: and that with regard to the Girls, the Education should be restricted to a grammatical knowledge of the English and French Languages, Arithmetic and Music, combined with plain and ornamental Needle Work, and other useful branches of Domestic Economy, or House-keeping, calculated to render them valuable and industrious heads, or superintendents of families, in after life.

It would, of course, be desirable that the various Officers, Masters, and Mistresses of both Establishments,—being expected to be equally respectable and well qualified for the duties alloted to them,—should have as liberal salaries as may be consistent with due economy; and it appears but just, that in the selection of persons to fill these responsible offices, a preference should, with one exception alone, be given to Half-pay and Retired Officers, and Officers' Wives' and Widows.

In addition to the number of Masters and Mistresses required to superintend the different classes, of whom a detailed list will be attempted hereafter, it is evidently desirable that a well qualified person should be appointed to the general domestic charge of each establishment, under the name of *House Governor* or *General Superintendent*, whose duty it should be to regulate the whole of the interior economy, keep a strict account of all disbursements, and transact any other business falling within the joint office of Accountant and Assistant Secretary to the Council or Board of Management, aided in the minor details, by an assistant clerk, in the person of the House Steward.

As in the choice of the Superintendent it would be necessary that he should be a married man, so it would be very desirable that his Wife should be qualified to undertake the office of *House Governess* or *Matron;* but in the event of the Superintendent being a Widower, the Wife of any of the other Masters might be eligible to hold that appointment, if found duly qualified.

The exception alluded to in a former paragraph should have reference to the appointment of a Chaplain to each Establishment, which important Office should always be held by a *Clergyman*, who shall have regularly graduated at one of the Universities; and such person being most likely to be best qualified to discharge the duties of Rector or Head Master, would be the most proper individual to fill that responsible office, in conjunction with that of Teacher of Latin and Mathematics to the Male Branch of the Establishment; while, in the Female Department the united office of General Superintendent and Chaplain might be held by the same person. The Clerical duties to consist of reading daily public Prayers, and the regular performance of Divine Service every Sabbath.

The appointment of a Resident Medical Officer being also absolutely necessary to so extensive an Establishment, it is hoped that Government might be prevailed on to nominate an experienced Surgeon to that charge, from the Half-pay List, who should be well versed in the Science of Chemistry, and the Practice of an Apothecary; as it might be advisable that the details of the Dispensary or Surgery attached to the Hospital should be so conducted as to afford an opportunity of grounding a few of the Orphan Pupils in the business of Druggists and Apothecaries, with the view of their ultimate settlement in life in those professions, or of being attached to Government General Hospitals or Public Dispensaries, at home or abroad, should there be opportunities of so

providing for them. The Surgeon to receive, of course, an additional Salary from the Institution ; and his Wife to be also eligible to fill the office of Chief Matron, or House Governess.

In the event of any of the above Office Bearers having Children, it might become a matter of liberal policy to permit one or more of the latter to be boarded and educated at the Institution, free of expense, subject however to the discretion of the Board of Management ; but Daughters to be in such cases, transferred to the Female Branch of the Establishment.

The proper carriage or " setting up" of the person in youth being of essential consequence, in after life, both as regards health and personal appearance, it is conceived that a *Gymnastic School* should also form part of the general Establishment, altogether distinct from the more scientific Military Instruction, but which should embrace, along with the usual Gymnastic Exercises, the Recruit Drill, the Firelock and Sword Exercises, and the practice of Swimming.

Having glanced at the qualifications which might be deemed requisite in the principal Officers of such an Institution, it may be as well to attempt to follow it up with a detailed list of the number and nature of the Officers and Servants, of every denomination, which it is conceived would be adequate to the successful operation of all its departments ; and in so doing it will be best, at once, to consider the Institution as consisting of the *two* great *distinct Branches* already spoken of, viz. *one, for the reception of Boys alone, and the other, for Girls and for Infant Orphans of both sexes.*

For the first of these Branches it is conceived the following Establishment would fully suffice, viz.

House Governor or General Superintendent, taking also the duties of Accountant and Assistant Secretary to the General Committee or Council of Management.—Rector, or Head Master, uniting in his person the duties of Chaplain, and the offices of Head-Teacher of Latin and the Mathematics —Assistant Teacher of Latin and Mathematics.—Head English Master, including the teaching of Geography ; and two assistant Masters.—Writing Master, including Arithmetic and Book-Keeping.—French Master, and one Assistant.—Superintendent of Gymnastics and Military Drill.—Instructor in General Military Science, including Fortification and Gunnery, and General Military Tactics—Surgeon and Apothecary.*—Steward, doing also the duties of Assistant Clerk to the House Governor. —Two Porters and one Messenger.—House Governess.—Head Cook, and Two Under-Cooks.—Laundress, and two Assistants ; and six other Household Servants.——Making a total of 29 persons.

The following Establishment, it is thought, would also be adequate to the wants of the Female Branch, viz.

General Superintendent, discharging also the duties of Chaplain, and acting as occasional Secretary to the Board of Management.—Head-Governess, to be, if possible, the wife of the Chaplain, and to act as Secretary to the Sub-Committees of Patronesses, should such be formed.—Assistant or Under-Housekeeper.—Head English School Mistress, and one Assistant Ditto.—French Mistress and one Assistant Ditto.—Writing Master or Mistress including Arithmetic.—Music Master (non-resident).—Dancing Master [ditto]—Surgeon. —Instructress in Dress-making and Embroidery.—Laundress and two Assistants.—Three Cooks.—Porter and Portress——Four other Maid Servants, and Ten Nurses for Infants and very young Children, exclusive of the occasional employment of Wet-Nurses, when necessary.—Giving altogether a total of 34 persons.

* Should both Branches be established in the same neighbourhood, one Surgeon would suffice.

Having taken a rapid general glance at the contemplated nature and extent of the proposed Institution, as well as of the Establishments likely to be required for both branches, let us now proceed to state the grounds on which we have been led to cherish the prospect of its successful foundation.

II.

As regards the first Foundation, and subsequent current Funds of the Institution.

The establishment of a great National Institution, such as has been attempted to be sketched in the foregoing brief outline, being evidently pregnant with incalculable benefits to the Officers of the British Army, possesses, as already observed, peculiar claims to the most strenuous co-operation of every member of that honorable profession in its behalf; and being also obviously calculated to be productive of great public good, it seems scarcely less deserving of patronage by the nation at large. It may, therefore be reasonably hoped, that few real difficulties would attend the ultimate success of so noble a fabric, were the great work of its *first Foundation* at once heartily and zealously engaged in.

But how, it will be asked, is even that arduous undertaking to be accomplished, seeing that the most favorable results of an appeal to the great sources of supply alluded to must be of little avail, without the fostering support of the State? We answer: Let the Army, in the first instance, do its part nobly and liberally towards a cause so peculiarly its own; and then, but not till then, will it have a right to expect that Government should mark its approbation of so *nationally* important an Institution, by either a liberal pecuniary grant in aid of its Foundation, or by the promise of the allotment of some unappropriated suitable public edifice for its use, as soon as the necessary preliminaries shall have been brought to undoubted maturity. Nay, it may not be amiss to observe that the establishment of such an Institution might, under proper regulations, be the means of saving Government both trouble and expense, from the tendency which it would have to simplify as well as restrict the calls upon the Compassionate Fund to the helpless and critical period of youth alone.

But in order to establish a stronger claim to the expectation that the above resources will eventually be forthcoming for defraying the *first endowment* of the Institution, let us proceed to point out the leading sources from which it is proposed to meet the subsequent current expenses, and to show how far these would be adequate to such inevitably heavy burthens. This will perhaps be deemed by some rather an inverse mode of proceeding, since it would appear more natural to look first to, and decide upon, the funds from which a Foundation must be previously made. But independent of its being impossible to speak more decidedly on a prospective contingency, involving so many fortuitous circumstances, it is presumed that a suitable provision for the latter important purpose will be most readily promoted, by its being first demonstrated that a Revenue can be realised that would be even more than sufficient to cope with the current expenditure of the Establishment; in the same manner as a prudent individual, before setting about the erection of a magnificent mansion, would first take into consideration

whether his income would also afford not only the means of afterwards furnishing its interior, on a scale of corresponding elegance, but of supporting the numerous household establishment, and expensive style of living, befitting so princely an abode.

For instance, then, taking the fundamental Regulation of the East India Company's Officers' meritorious Orphan Institutions in India as, so far, *a long-tried successful practical guide*, can it be doubted that an annual contribution of *one day's pay*, or little more than ¼ per cent. would be most cheerfully bestowed towards so desirable an object, by *every* Officer of the British Army, whether on full or half pay!* In which case from that single source alone (supposing the number of Officers to be between 14,000 and 15,000,) would at once be created an average annual income of near £6,000!

Again, the leading feature of such an Institution being for the immediate vital benefit of the Orphan Children of Officers, there can be as little doubt that all the married members of the Service would equally cheerfully subscribe two additional days' pay per annum, to give their offspring a claim to a participation in its fostering care, when unfortunately left without a Parental Protector. From which source, supposing on an average, that ⅛ of the Officers of the army are married, would accrue an additional annual income of between £1,400 and £1,500.†.

It would next remain to be decided, what sum should be contributed by those Officers who may send their Children to be boarded and educated at the Institution, as *ordinary* pupils; and this it is conceived could not, on the most moderate scale, be estimated at less than £17 or £18 per annum (exclusive of clothing ‡) for one, or £30 per annum for two Boys; and £14 per annum for one, or £24 per annum for two Girls, belonging to the same family. Taking, however, £16 as the probable medium rate, and that one in every 20 officers sent one pupil, making 750 in all, it follows that a further addition to the Funds would thereby be accumulated of about £12,000 per annum!

The above being once duly constituted the great Parent Funds of the Institution, the collection of them could at once be simplified by its becoming a Regulation of the Service (as in the Indian Army) that all Officers should, as a matter of course, acquiesce in the same, on their first entering the Service; and that the amount of the different subscriptions should be stopt quarterly, in advance, from every Officer's pay, by Regimental, Detachment, or District Pay-Masters, or by Half-Pay Agents,

* Every Officer of the East India Army, on entering the service, is bound to contribute towards the maintenance of this laudable Establishment, in proportion to his rank—Subalterns paying 3 rupees, Captains 6 rupees, and Majors 9 rupees *per mensem*; or, about 1½ per cent. on their annual incomes—*about five times more than what is above proposed.*

† Note 1854. In the framing of this Prospectus it was not contemplated that the Officers of the Indian Army would even be disposed to co-operate in the proposed Institution; but such being a part of the plan of the Wellington College, it may here be observed that, to provide for the extension of the Foundation to individual Officers of that service, without interfering with their own excellent Institution, all that would be necessary would be to arrange so that any Orphan of an East India Company's Officer might be eligible to be transferred to the Royal Establishment if desired, on complying with such rules as might be mutually agreed upon by the managers of both, with regard to receiving the Orphan Allowance, &c., as pointed out in page 17.

‡ The clothing is proposed to be furnished by the Institution, and charged to the parents annually at the actual cost.

as the case might require,—to be ultimately carried by them to the credit of the Institution.*

It being also reasonable and just that the Compassionate Allowance of the different Orphans on the foundation of the Institution should be received by it, it is conceived that, to save trouble to all parties, Government would be readily induced to transfer to the credit of the Institution an annual sum equal to what would be paid to these Orphans from the Compassionate Fund, if left in charge of their relations. If we estimate the number of which Orphans, at a venture, at 300 (being at the rate of 2 to every 100), at £10 each, the funds will thereby gain a further addition of about £3000 per annum.†

It is also conceived, though not here reckoned upon to any *stated* extent, that the funds of the Institution might be materially increased and an essential benefit at the same time conferred on many a meritorious individual, were all Officers who retired from the Army, after at least 10 years service, with an unblemished character, permitted to continue to participate in the benefits derivable from both branches of the Establishment, so long as they regularly paid up the Quarterly Subscription allotted to the Half-pay of the Regimental Rank held by them at the time they retired. While on the other hand the dismissal or retirement of any Officer from the service, on account of unofficer-like or ungentlemanlike conduct of any kind, should of course be considered as cancelling all claims on the Institution.

It might at the same time be advisable, with a view of in some degree discouraging inconsiderate early marriages, and checking undue demands upon the funds from such a cause, that no Officer should be entitled to claim the benefits of the Orphan branch of the Institution for his Children, until he shall have either actually served Seven years, or attained the age of twenty-five, except under very particular circumstances, the merits of which might be left to the decision of the Council or Commitee of Management.‡

Should such be once constituted, by the voice of the army, the certain resources to be contributed on their part, towards the current expense of so valuable and interesting an institution—and for which we shall hereafter demonstrate they would be nearly adequate—it would be impossible to doubt the certainty of the usual liberal and encouraging aid of a fostering Government, or the corresponding results of an appeal to the best feelings of the nation at large, in behalf of its successful foundation.

Let us suppose, however, by way of argument, that sufficiently ample

* It has been suggested that the sphere of the Institution might be still further extended, in a way that would be highly satisfactory, and at the same time but just, towards the *unmarried* portion of the Army, by giving all such subscribers the right to place a nephew or neice on the ordinary branch of the Establishments; and in this liberal suggestion we readily acquiesce.

† Note 1854. See note at p. 16, to which it is also necessary to add, that in the event of any Orphan of an Officer of the East India Service being transferred to the Royal Institution, whatever allowance would be receivable by the Orphan from the Indian Compassionate Fund would have to be handed over to the British Institution, as above described, with such modifications as might mutually be found expedient.

‡ How far another supposed occasionally productive source of income might be made available, is rather doubtful; but it may at all events be hinted, that perhaps Government would authorize all unclaimed Officers' prize money to be, after three years, paid into the Treasury of the Institution, for the benefit of its funds, instead of those of Chelsea Hospital.

funds shall have been happily realised to warrant either the building, or purchasing, or, to speak more moderately still, the temporary *renting*, of two mansions calculated to accommodate the two Branches of the Institution, it may now be advisable to exhibit, in a somewhat tangible form, how far the available annual Funds above alluded to, would be commensurate with the various current expenses of two such extensive Establishments, including the salaries of their numerous Office-Bearers and Servants, the cost of Provisions for more than 1100 individuals, the clothing of say 300 Orphans, the Laundry and Hospital expenses, and the wear and tear of Furniture and Utensils, Linen, Books, Stationery, and other contingencies. With this view, let us commence with the following recapitulation:—

1st.—Probable amount of one day's pay from every Officer in the Army, supposing the number (including Half as well as Full Pay) to be about 15,000, say	£6,000
2nd.—Ditto of two additional days' pay from all Married Officers, to entitle their Offspring to the benefits of the Orphan Branch of the Institution, reckoned at about 1 in 8, say	1,500
3rd.—Ditto of charges for the board and education of, say 750 Children of living Parents, being at the rate of 1 Child in every 20 Officers, at the medium cost of £16 per annum	12,000
4th.—Probable amount of allowances from Compassionate Fund to 300 Orphans, being at the rate of 1 to every 50 Officers, supposed to be transferred to the Treasury of the Institution	3,000
	£22,500

Supposing, then, that the sums expected from the above sources were realized to the extent described, and that the number of Pupils admitted upon both Establishments amounted, as before estimated, to 1050, it follows that if the expense attending each Child were at a venture rated at £20 per annum, including all charges, the Funds annually available would be more than adequate to the current expenses of the Institution. For,

If the amount of these Funds alone be	£22,500
And the Expense attending 1060 Children, at £20 each per annum, be . .	21,000
There will remain an Annual Balance, in favor of the Institution, of . .	1,500

After which let us suppose nine donations of £200 each, or twelve of only £150, to be annually bestowed on so many Orphans, on their quitting the Institution, amounting to 1,800, there will after all be only a trifling deficit of £300! But if, on the other hand, one dared encourage a hope that the yearly donation would be of *two* instead of *one* day's pay —there would at once be created an annual available surplus of not less than £6,500.

To prove still more satisfactorily that this cheering prospect is far from visionary, it may be as well to hazard a more detailed view of the subject, exhibiting, in abstract, the various probable current expenses of the Institution, guided, in some respects, such as the estimated cost of provisions, clothing, coals, candles, wear and tear of furniture and utensils, linen, books, stationery, and other incidental charges, by those of somewhat similar institutions.

1st.—Estimated probable amount of the Salaries of the Male Branch of the Institution.

General Superintendent or House Governor for various duties	£200	Surgeon and Apothecary if on half-pay and allowed private practice	£150
Rector and Chaplain	350	Steward and Clerk to Superintendent	100
Assistant Latin and Mathematical Teacher	200	House Governess	100
Head English Master	250	Head and two Assistant Cooks, at £20, £15, and £12	47
1st. Assistant Ditto	150	Two Porters at £30 and £20	50
2nd. Ditto Ditto	100	Messenger	30
Writing Master	200	Laundress and two Assistants, at £15, £12, and £10	37
French Master	250	Six other Servants, three at £12, and three at £10 each	66
Assistant Ditto	150		
Superintendent of Gymnastics	100		
Instructor in Military Science	250		
	£2,200	Total	£2,780

2nd.—The following may also be estimated as the probable amount of the Salaries of the Female Branch of the Institution.

Superintendent and Chaplain	£250	Dancing Master, non-resident	100
House Governess	100	Music Master, non-resident	100
Under House-keeper and Stewardess	70	Surgeon	150
Head English School Mistress	150	Laundress and two Assistants	37
Two Assistants to Ditto at £90 and £80	170	Three Cooks	47
Instructress in Dress-making and Embroidery	100	Porter and Portress	50
French School Mistress	150	Four other Maid Servants, at £10 each	40
Assistant Ditto	90	Besides, say 10 Nurses for Infants and very young Children, at £10 each	100
	£1,110	Total	£1,734

Supposing the above two tables to exhibit sums tolerably near the mark, we may next proceed to give a similar abstract sketch of the probable total expenses of the other great branches of outlay, viz.:—

3rd.—Estimate of the probable amount of the total expense of Provisions for both Establishments, including 61 Officers and Servants, and 1050 Children	£9,500
4th.—Ditto of Clothing for the whole of the Orphans, and Liveries for the Petty Officers and particular Servants	1,000
5th.—Ditto of Coals, Candles, Firewood, and Lamp-lighting	1,500
6th.—Estimate of probable wear and tear of Furniture and Utensils, Laundry and Hospital Expenses, Linen, Books, Stationery, and other Contingencies	2,500
7th.—Ditto of Repairs and charge of Premises, say	500
	£15,000
Add to which the first two Estimates, viz:—	
1st.—Expenses of Male Department, as above	2,780
2nd.—Ditto of Female Department	1,734
And also,	
6th.—Estimated Amount of Annual Donations to Orphans, as before	1,800
And the Grand Total will be	£21,314

shewing a rather remarkable unlooked for coincidence with the calculation given in a former page, but more in favor of the Institution, as exhibiting a clear annual Balance of £1,186, after defraying all charges!

Highly favorable as may appear the prospect of ultimate success in this great undertaking, as viewed through the medium of either of the

foregoing rough estimates, it may be as well to take still another view of the subject, and suppose it probable that some years would elapse before the unfettered blessings of the Institution could be brought into operation, and that in the meantime its establishment should so far proceed on a limited scale, that the Orphan Branch alone should be unrestricted, but that the admission of the Children of living parents should at first be proportioned to the gradually increasing extent of its means. In such case let the number of Orphans be supposed to be 300, as before, and the average expense of each be estimated even as high as £25 per annum, it will be found that the £6000 realized from the single day's pay of all ranks, with the £1500 derived from the two extra days' pay of the Married Officers, would be exactly sufficient to cover all the expenses, Orphan Donations excepted; but of course these would be amply met by the allowances proposed to be handed over from the Compassionate Fund. In the meantime, however, a certain number of Ordinary Pupils might be admitted annually from each Regiment or Corps, as vacancies occurred, or the accommodations allowed, proportioned to the gradually improving state of the finances; all such regimental candidates to be elected by the general vote of the Officers of the Corps, and admitted either by lottery or ballot, or by selection, guided by the peculiar nature of their claims, until, at last, restrictions becoming altogether unnecessary, every Married Officer would be at liberty to present his Child for admission, without the necessity of any appeal to his brother Officers whatever.

Independent of the above arrangement, it may be here also observed, that it is conceived that every Regiment and Corps in the Service should have a PROPRIETARY VOICE in the management of the affairs of the Institution; and it is supposed that the simplest mode of exercising this just and salutary control, would be by the Officers of Corps electing a standing Committee among themselves, the duty of whose president should be to communicate on the part of his brother Officers, to the Council or Committee of Management, all decisions regarding regimental candidates, as well as to convey their sentiments on any suggested improvements, apparent defects, or other matters, by them deemed deserving of being submitted to the Managing Committee's consideration. Add to which, it is conceived it would be desirable that every Corps should occasionally depute an authorised Regimental Delegate to visit the Institution, and minutely inspect the interior economy of both Branches, for the information of their brother Officers, to whom they should have to transmit or deliver a detailed written Report of their visitation.*

It may also be observed, that, it being an important leading feature of the proposed Institution that it should place at the disposal of the anxious parent, on distant foreign service, a comfortable Home and respectable Seminary of congenial education for his Child, in the bosom of his native country, altogether independent of the chances of war, and the casualties of unhealthy climates, it would be deserving of consideration, whether, until the funds should have arrived at full maturity, a *decided preference* should not be given to Children belonging to Corps so situated, next to

* Note, 1854.—The great popular value of these Regimental Boards would prove very great, as in a manner giving to every officer a direct voice in the administration of the affairs of the Institution, and otherwise inducing them to take an active interest in its prosperity, besides completely shutting the door against undue favoritism or patronage by particular classes.

the unprotected offspring of those who may have fallen in the service of their country.

It is also further suggested, that it would be productive of very great benefit to the large proportion of the Army employed on Foreign Service, were two responsible Agents (who might be Officers on half pay) appointed to receive temporary charge of all Children arriving from abroad, in the event of their relations being unable, or at too inconvenient a distance, to undertake that interesting, and often very necessary duty; one to be stationed in London, to receive charge of all those who may arrive from Gibraltar, Malta, and other stations in the Mediterranean, as well as from the different Regiments in India, Ceylon, New South Wales and the Cape of Good Hope; and the other to reside at Liverpool, and take charge of all those arriving from the West Indies and North America, together with such as accidental circumstances may bring to that port, from any of the foreign stations before mentioned; and the express duties of these agents to be, to take charge of the Children and their baggage from the vessel, to report their arrival to the parents, as well as to the Secretary of the Council of Management, and to receive them into their family, until arrangements can be made for forwarding them to the Institution. For which trouble they should be entitled to a certain fee for each Child, in addition to the expense of their temporary board, and an equitable per centage on such other outlay as may be absolutely necessary on their account, from the time of their landing, until delivered over to the Institution. It would, however, be necessary that these charges should always be promptly defrayed by the parent; and perhaps this could be most conveniently managed by granting a provisional order on the Regimental Agent, to be presented after counter-signature of the Secretary of the Board of Management, as a voucher of their correctness, and of the receipt of the Child and its property; but no Child so forwarded to be admitted on the foundation of the Institution, until this regulation should be complied with. The great convenience, nay importance, of such an appointment, will be particularly appreciated by parents who have served long abroad, and found it necessary to send, home their Children for education. It may, therefore, be well added, that, even altogether independent of the proposed Institution, the services of such an agent would often be invaluable in taking charge of Children arriving from Corps abroad, and arranging all matters connected with the forwarding of them to their intended destination among distant friends and relations.*

But it is time to quit these secondary, though interesting topics, and pass to the more important subject of Management, with which, indeed some of the foregoing remarks are more regularly connected.

* Note, 1854.—To the above it may be added that the author is well aware—from his own personal knowledge—that in the event of the extension of the benefit of the Royal Institution to individual officers of the Indian Army, the appointment of such agents as here described, would prove invaluable; but the rules connected therewith would have to be strictly attended to.

III.

Regarding the Management of the Institution.

Some idea will have been already formed of the proposed nature of the Management of the Institution, during the perusal of the foregoing pages. Without, then, going particularly into details more or less common to all similarly constituted bodies, suffice it for the present to suppose that, all preliminaries being arranged, and a Council or Committee of Management appointed by a general Meeting of all Subscribers and Delegates resident in or near the metropolis, it will follow that a similar meeting should be held annually, by public advertisement, to receive and approve of the Report of the Managing Committee, and, if necessary, to elect new members, as vacancies occur; as also to discuss any matters connected with the good of the Establishment, which may be brought before it, either by the Board of Management, or by individual subscribers then present. In other respects the entire direction of the affairs of the Institution to be vested in the Council or Board of Management, which might consist of a president, 4 vice-presidents, and 12 ordinary members, besides a treasurer and a secretary, elected from among such General Officers, Staff and Field Officers, resident in and near the metropolis, as may be willing to undertake this honorable gratuitous office. All these officers to be liable to be re-elected, except the 4 ordinary members at the head of the list, who should as usual retire, for at least one year, before re-election; and the same individuals not to hold the offices of president or of vice-presidents more than two years in succession, and one year to elapse afterwards, before re-election. The Council Meetings to be of course unrestricted in regard to number, but held whenever thought necessary; and a minute book of their proceedings to be kept for their special use and reference.

In this Board should of course be vested, the appointment of all the domestic officers, masters, and subordinate teachers, and servants of the Establishment—a preference being always, if possible, given to Half-pay and Retired Officers, and Officers' Wives and Widows, in nomination to the superior situations; and to meritorious pensioned Non-Commissioned Officers and Soldiers, and their Wives and Widows, in selections for the inferior offices. And, it may be added, that to ease its members in the general duties of the Board, one of its vice-presidents, and four of the ordinary members, might form a periodical Sub-Committee of Visitation, and audit of all accounts. The duties of visitation to consist of a minute inspection, at uncertain intervals, of every department of both Establishments, and to give in a periodical Report of the same for the information of the Council in general.

It might also be very desirable, that from among the vice-patrons of the Institution, one of the dignitaries of the Church should be invited to join the Board of Management; and, should there be several among its supporters, that the invitation should be held out to all in rotation.

And it would be still more desirable, that, in aid of the labors of the general Managing Committee, an Honorary Ladies' Committee should be invited to form themselves, from among the vice-patronesses and other fair supporters of the Institution, with the special view of promoting to the utmost the welfare of the interesting Female Branch of the Establishment. This Committee to consist of a similar number to the Council,

and to be similarly divided into Sub-Committees of Visitation; the result of whose observations to be submitted in like manner to the General Committee, and by them reported to the Council. The House Governess to act as assistant to the Honorary Secretary of the Ladies' Committee, when necessary.

Much more might be added on the subject of Management; but the above, it is hoped, will be more than sufficient to direct attention to a subject always important and interesting, but in this case offering one or two novel features for adoption, that seem peculiarly adapted for the constitution of such an Institution: we shall, therefore, endeavor to close our desultory sketch with a few miscellaneous hints, connected chiefly with the admission of Candidates, the general discipline of the Schools, and the final exit of the Pupils from its protecting roof.

IV.

Miscellaneous hints connected with the Regulation of Claims to Admission, but more particularly of the Orphan Branch of the Institution, the general Discipline of the Schools, and the final honorable exit of those who may be placed under its fostering protection.

The particular system of Instruction to be adopted in the Schools of the Institution would, of course, be a matter of future mature consideration by far more competent judges than the writer of these desultory remarks; but it may in the meantime be earnestly hoped, that such only would be adopted as would ensure the excitement of the genial spirit of emulation, whether in the cultivation of knowledge or the pursuit of virtue, without the degrading exhibition of the infliction of corporal and other disgraceful punishments, still too common in many of our public schools and other seminaries: and, perhaps, as far as report may be believed, few systems would be found to work better, without assuming very high pretensions, than that at present pursued in the New Academy of Edinburgh. Without, however, discussing this important subject further, it is hoped that the following few miscellaneous hints, bearing more immediately on the admission of Pupils into the Institution, and their final transfer from its protection to the more eventful busy walks of life, may neither be altogether out of place, nor unworthy of attention.

That all Children should of course be deemed entitled to participate in the benefit of the Orphan Branch of the Establishment, on the decease of the *Father* alone; but in case of the surviving parent being able and willing to retain charge of her Child for a time, she should be at liberty to do so, on making known her wishes to the Board of Management, and the same being assented to by them: in which case the Child might be allowed to remain in her charge until the age of eight years, and the parent be, during that time, allowed an annual sum for its support, equivalent to that received from the Compassionate Fund. But at the expiration of that period, the Child should either be brought regularly on the foundation of the Institution, or considered to have forfeited all claims to a participation in its benefits.

That all Pupils, whether Orphans or the Children of living parents,

should, when proposed for admission to the Institution, be expected to have made a progress in the rudiments of education proportioned to their years. With a view to ascertain which, a special examination should take place on their being presented ; and if found remarkably deficient, they should be rejected until such time as they should be found to have so far made up the deficiency, as to be deemed qualified for admission.

The avowed chief object of the Institution being to furnish a protecting Home to the often friendless and destitute Offspring of the brave men who may have either fallen in battle, or whose lives may have otherwise been sacrificed in the service of their country, some precise rules would appear to be necessary, to guard against the misapplication of this hallowed purpose—as for instance:*

That no Orphan should be entitled to be admitted to the benefits of that Branch of the Institution, whose parents shall be known to be in circumstances that should render it altogether independent of such a resource, and that such should be deemed to be the case when the surviving parent of an Orphan (being an only child) shall be possessed of an income, from whatever source, of more than double the amount of the usual pension of her rank, or where the Child itself shall be possessed of property, by inheritance, bequest, or otherwise, to the amount of more than, say £1000, or to an annuity yielding more than £50 per annum, but that in the event of there being more than one Child, a fair and adequate addition of, say £40 or £50 per annum for each, should be made in favor or the widow, or the parents' representative, as the case may be. All such Orphans to be, nevertheless, eligible to be enrolled on the ordinary Education Branch of the Establishment, on the same terms as the Children of living parents, the surviving parent, guardian, trustee, or executor, paying the usual quarterly Subscription regularly in advance.

That on the admission of Orphans possessing property less than the sums above specified, such property should have to be vested in Government securities, to be deposited in the treasury of the Institution, for their Ward's subsequent benefit, or, in the event of their decease, for that of a surviving brother or sister, or both, should there be such ; but in the event of there being no other brother or sister, and both parents being dead, so much of the amount to be liable to be transferred to the credit of the Institution, as shall have been actually expended on behalf of the same (funeral charges included), during the time of its being on the foundation of the Establishment, and the residue to be then paid over, on demand, to the parents' representative, executor, or trustee, for the benefit of the next heir. All Orphans so situated to be liable to rejection, should the surviving parent, trustee, or other person who presents the Child, evade or refuse to comply with this regulation.

That all Orphans succeeding by inheritance, bequest, or otherwise, to property equal to, or more than, the sums above specified, *during the time of their being on the foundation of the Institution*, shall be liable, on such taking place, to be transferred from the Orphan list to that of ordinary Pupils, in the manner already specified.

That when, by the will of a parent, a capricious, unjust, or partial distribution of property shall be made, so as unduly to favour the surviving

* Regulations in a great measure similar to several of the following paragraphs are in force in the Orphan Institutions of the Officers of the East India Company.

parent, or other persons, to the detriment of the Child or Children, or by which part only of the Children shall be provided for, to the prejudice, seclusion, or omission of the rest; and it shall manifestly appear that such was the intention of the testator, such conduct shall be considered to invalidate the claims of all the Children of that family to the Orphan benefits of the Institution; and that, with reference to this regulation, any greater provision for the widow than three-fifths where there shall be only one Child, one-half where there shall be two, and one-third where there shall be three or more Children, shall be deemed as coming within its prohibitory intent and purpose, unless the whole income derived thereby shall not exceed double the amount of the lady's pension, &c., as already specified.

That should similar prejudicial consequences arise to Orphans from the parent dying intestate, they should be equally liable to rejection on that account; but that nothing in either this or the foregoing regulation should interfere with their being received into the ordinary Education Branch of the Institution.

That with the view of gaining the most correct and authentic information on all the foregoing points, the Board of Management should, on the presentation of any Orphan, be entitled, if deemed necessary, to call for the unreserved perusal of all testamentary or other documents, involving its interests; and in the event of such being refused, or evaded, or of its appearing, on an inspection of the same, that the funds of the Institution would be unduly burthened through any of the foregoing means, such Child, or Children, should be thereby subject to rejection.

That to guard still further against the infringement of these essential and salutary regulations, the surviving parent, guardian, or other person presenting an Orphan for admission, shall, in addition to the production of testamentary documents, and a certificate of the Child's identity from the deceased parent's last Commanding Officer, or other competent person, make affidavit, according to a prescribed form, of its claims coming strictly within the letter and spirit of the regulations of the Institution.

That on an Orphan Pupil being once admitted, the Board of Management should be considered as its special guardians, until the period of its quitting the Institution; and that they should therefore be at liberty to reject all proposals from its surviving parent, relations, or others, for withdrawing it from their protection before the proper time, unless accompanied by the most satisfactory proofs of such being for the undoubted benefit and advantage of their Ward; but that this permission being once obtained, should, except under very peculiar circumstances, be considered as a virtual renouncement of all future claims upon the Institution. In all which cases, where there may be property belonging to such Orphans, in deposit in the treasury of the Institution, the same should be forthwith made over to the surviving parent, guardian, or other responsible person, making the application, and a receipt taken for the same.

With regard to the close of the Pupil's residence in the Institution, whether Orphan or otherwise, it may be observed, that though, as an excitement to laudable emulation among the scholars, of all ages, a certain number of appropriate honorary rewards and medals would, as usual, be awarded at every half-yearly examination, to the most deserving of each class; it might be proposed, to mark still more honorably the termination of the career of the transcendently meritorious, that Govern-

ment should be solicited to bestow annually upon *one* or more of the most successful candidates, about to quit the Institution, some more substantial parting memorial of approbation, having a direct reference to their future prospects in life ; and that such should be either the gift of a Commission in the Army, or, independent of any final pecuniary donation, as Orphans, bestowing upon them the means of qualifying themselves, at the University, for entering either the Clerical Profession, or that of the Law ; according as the avowed bent of their inclinations and talents might suggest.

It may be here also observed, that after each half-yearly examination of the progress of the Pupils, a limited vacation should take place for the mutual benefit and relaxation of both Master and Scholar, during which the Orphan portion and such other Pupils whose parents may be abroad, should be at liberty to visit either their friends and relations, if in their power, under certain restrictions and regulations, or to remain at the Institution, *free of expense*; but that, it is conceived, a small additional charge should be made against the parents of all those belonging to Regiments or Depots on the Home Service, to cover the expense of their board during each vacation.

With reference to the important benevolent proposal, already more than once hinted at, of contributing towards the respectable establishment in life of all such Orphans as may unfortunately be left entirely dependent on the bounty of the Institution, by making them a farewell pecuniary donation from its funds, we need only observe, that it is proposed, that, in addition to every endeavor being made to obtain suitable situations for all Orphans so circumstanced, such of them as quitted the Asylum with acknowledged credit, should, independent of any other honorary distinction, *be presented with the sum of* £200, for the purpose of assisting in their outfit in life ; or, as the case may be, paying an Apprentice Fee, or other demand usual, on youths being articled to particular trades or professions. But that it be understood, that no Orphan shall be entitled to such donation, who shall be possessed of property amounting to more than, say, double that sum ; to be certified in a manner similar to that specified in a former paragraph.

On the other hand, as a greater incentive to laudable and virtuous distinction, as well as marked discountenance of persevering vice, it should be well understood that any remarkable depravity of disposition, vicious incorrigibility, or other heinously disgraceful conduct being recorded against a pupil, should not only render *Orphans* liable to have the above donation withheld, but subject both them and the children of living parents to the extreme penalty of ignominious expulsion from the Institution, and of being for ever disqualified from any future participation in its benefits.

With regard to the establishment of the Orphans in life, on attaining the age of 16, suffice it here to observe, that this must, of course, depend greatly on the exertions of their friends and relations, though they will be seconded by the good offices of the Council of Management and its aids, who would naturally take the same steps to obtain situations for them as are now successfully adopted by other Institutions of a somewhat similar nature, and in which it is conceived they would experience even less difficulty, considering the wide range of inquiry more particularly open to them, among the various Public Offices, and different Go-

vernment Agents, Contractors, and other trades and professions more or less connected with Government. At all events, the youths alluded to, would, as is the case elsewhere, have then to be transferred to the protection of their relations.

Lastly.—With reference to the propriety of adopting a uniformity of dress and equipment in an Institution of this nature, it may be observed, that all the *Male* Pupils, on joining, might be required to bring with them a new uniform dress, made agreeably to a fixed pattern, suited to their age, consisting of a blue cloth forage cap, black silk stock, plain blue cloth close jacket, with gilt basket buttons, blue cloth trowsers, and shoes; together with a certain number of shirts, drawers, waistcoats, stockings, and handkerchiefs, and a set of such toilet articles as are usual at similar Establishments, and the whole to be contained in a trunk of certain dimensions; but all other articles to be deemed inadmissible superfluities. This stock to be afterwards completed periodically, at the discretion of the Board of Management, *without further expense to the Orphan;* but to be charged against the parents of ordinary pupils annually, at the actual cost. It need scarcely be added, that all pupils, residing within the walls of the Institution, would be expected invariably to appear in the dress above described.

What uniformity of dress should be adopted by the *Female* Branch of the Institution would, of course, be left to the decision of the Honorary Ladies' Committee.

IN CONCLUSION.

Much more might still be added connected with the well-being of the interior economy of the Schools, and the domestic arrangement of both Establishments: but it is conceived that more than enough has already been advanced, to satisfy every thinking British Officer as to the desirable nature, as well as evident practicability, of the great work in contemplation; or, at least, to impress upon his mind a few of the many beneficial results which would accrue to the Army, from the existence of any similarly constituted Institution. To do more, therefore, would only perhaps be running the risk, however innocently, of incurring the imputation of a vain display of fancied abilities, or a desire of arrogant dictation, if not of unbecoming encroachment on the province of those to whose superior judgment would eventually be confided the organization of so important an undertaking. Suffice it, then, to close these desultory hints, with a renewed disavowal of all such unworthy feelings or motives, coupled with the writer's fervent valedictory hope, that the spark which he has essayed to kindle in behalf of the interesting portion of the rising generation immediately connected with the British Army, may yet, under Divine Providence, and the auspices of British patriotism, munificence, and benevolence, be expanded into a wide-spreading hallowed flame, which, reflecting a benignant influence throughout the whole of our extended Empire, shall, like the sacred fire of the ancient Persians, be destined never to be extinguished, but with time itself.

Leaving the many obvious truths told in the foregoing sketch to speak for themselves, I now come to the following letters—to and from Sir John Conroy, and to and from his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury; and to Extracts of a Memorandum of a conversation with Sir John Conroy, in Kensington Palace—upon which the only comment that need be here made is, that they will be found to form rather singular contrasts to each other :—

No. 5.

Copy of Letter addressed by Major Lachlan, to Colonel Sir John Conroy, Private Secretary to H. R. H. the Duchess of Kent, on doing himself the honor of transmitting to him two copies of the Prospectus, to be presented to their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Kent and the Princess Victoria.

To Colonel Sir John Conroy,
Private Secy. to H. R. H. the Duchess of Kent,
&c. &c. &c.

Laira Green, Plymouth, 30th Jan., 1834.

Sir,—I have the honor to transmit herewith two copies of the Prospectus of a proposed Royal Military Institution and Officers' Orphan Asylum about to be submitted to the consideration of the Army, and of which copies have been respectfully laid before their Majesties; and I have to request that you will do me the honor of taking a favorable opportunity of presenting one of them to H. R. H. the Duchess of Kent, and the other to H. R. H. the Princess Victoria, with my humble prayer that their Royal Highnesses would condescend to honor the same with their gracious perusal and attention.

Whatever may be the fate of the particular undertaking therein advocated, I trust some great National Institution of a congenial character will ere long be successfully founded under the highest of all patronage, and that one of its most prominent features will be the provision of a protecting *Home* for the often friendless *Orphan Daughters of British Officers*. I hope I may therefore take the liberty of inviting the benevolent attention of their Royal Highnesses to the particular part of the Prospectus having that peculiarly interesting and hallowed object in view.

I have the honor to be,
Your most obedient servant,
R. Lachlan, late Major, 17th Regt.

No. 6.

Copy of Sir John Conroy's Reply to the foregoing:—

Major Lachlan, &c. &c.

Kensington Palace, 4th Feb., 1834.

Sir,—I have had the honor to lay your letter before the Duchess of Kent, and the Prospectus of a proposed Royal Military Institution and

Officers' Orphan Asylum, about to be submitted to the consideration of the Army, which Her Royal Highness has read with deep interest. And Her Royal Highness and the Princess Victoria will most readily be Patronesses of it, as no object can be more calculated to engage their sincere sympathy than an Institution, the most prominent feature of which will be the provision of a protecting home for the often friendless Orphan Daughter of the British Officer.

I have the honor to be,

Your most obedient Servant,

JOHN CONROY.

No. 7.

Copy of a Letter addressed to His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, with a copy of the Prospectus.

Laira Green, Plymouth, 2nd Feb., 1834.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE,—Persuaded that the advocate of any public undertaking having for its laudable objects the promotion of *Education* and the *befriending* of the *unprotected Orphan*, may ever reckon on your Lordship's cordial co-operation and liberal support, I indulge a hope that a great National Institution such as that contemplated in the imperfect sketch which I have the honor to transmit herewith, will be found to possess more than common claims to your Grace's attention and regard.

Suffice it, then, to state, that the interesting and important subject therein discussed has been submitted to the consideration of the Officers of the Army, on whom, of course, must devolve the main burthen of supporting such an Establishment, and that I firmly trust that whatever may be the fate of the particular arrangements proposed by me, *some* congenial useful and philanthropic undertaking will ere long be matured under the highest auspices; and that I confidently venture to anticipate the ready extension of your Grace's highly influential patronage in favor of so hallowed a cause.

Should your Grace regard this communication as deserving of an acknowledgment, the favor of a reply, when perfectly convenient, will much oblige,

Your Grace's very obedient Servant,

R. LACHLAN, late Major, 17th Regt.

No. 8.

His Grace the Archbishop's Reply to the foregoing.

Lambeth, February 17, 1834.

SIR,—I have seen so many abortive attempts to form Institutions of a similar nature to that which you have in view, that I am, in prudence,

compelled to defer my concurrence in such plans till they have been actually put in execution, and afford the means of judging whether the are calculated to answer their purpose or not. For the young person whom you wish to benefit, a strong interest must be naturally felt, in respect both to their own condition and the services of their fathers.

I remain, Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

W. CANTUAR.

To Major Lachlan,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 9.

Extract from Memorandum of a Conversation with Sir John Conroy, at an interview at Kensington Palace, on the 16th of May 1834, for the purpose of expressing my very humble grateful acknowledgements of the proffered high patronage of their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Kent and the Princess Victoria, to the proposed Royal Military Institution, and to state, at the same time, that I had felt it my duty to apprize their Royal Highnesses that in consequence of serious obstacles where I least expected it, I feared that the accomplishment of that noble object would have to be postponed for the present.

"Sir John replied, that he should of course take an opportunity of conveying my wishes to the Princesses; and that, in fact, their Royal Highnesses were always made acquainted with the particulars of all interviews; and that their Royal Highnesses would be exceedingly sorry to hear of the little hope of success at present entertained by me;—'but of this you may be assured, Major Lachlan, and I am authorized to say so—that when the proper time arrives, you may depend on their Royal Highnesses being ready to come forward, *not only with their* PATRONAGE, *but with their* PURSE *also*, in its behalf,—as nothing comes nearer their Royal Highnesses hearts than the object of which you are the advocate, as you must have been aware from my Letter to you some time back.'"

To the last of these documents it is only necessary to add, that in accordance with the determination therein mentioned, no further agitation of the equally important and interesting object in view was from that time attempted during the remainder of the life of the illustrious Duke.

PART II.

On the lamented death of his Grace the Duke of Wellington, feeling myself once more at liberty to revive the never-abandoned, though long dormant, estimable project which I had for so many years had at heart, I was, after repeated deferential delays, induced to address the following earnest, yet energetic, respectful appeal to H.R.H. Prince Albert, forming the 1st No. of the 2d section of the subject.

No. 10.

Copy of Letter addressed by Major Lachlan.

To Field-Marshal his Royal Highness Prince Albert, of Saxe Coburg, &c. &c. &c., dated Montreal, 1st December, 1852 (but originally written 17th of Oct.)

May it please your Royal Highness.

More than 18 eventful years have elapsed since the humble individual who now ventures to address you was encouraged to do himself the high honor of presenting—through the medium of Sir John Conroy—to her Majesty and her royal parent the Duchess of Kent two copies of the accompanying small Pamphlet, aiming at the foundation of *A great National Institution, intended more especially for the Reception of Orphan Children of Officers of the British Army, but so constituted as to form, at the same time, a highly respectable yet economical public Seminary for the Education of Officers' Sons and Daughters in general,*—in the humble hope that so nobly philanthropic and patriotic an undertaking would not be deemed unworthy of their Royal Highnesses august Patronage, and he was not disappointed; having then been honored with a most flattering assurance that "Their Royal Highnesses had read the "same with deep interest, and would be most ready to be *Patronesses* "of the proposed Institution, as no object could be more calculated to "engage their sincere sympathy than an Institution, the most prominent "feature of which would be the provision of a protecting Home for the "often friendless Daughter of the British Officer."—Vide Nos. 5, 6, and 9, pp. 28 and 29.

Unfortunately for the noble project in agitation, the illustrious individual, whose irreparable loss is now so deeply deplored by a whole nation—his Grace the Duke of Wellington—to whose inspection the Manuscript draft of the Prospectus had in the first instance been submitted, was led

to take an unfavourable view of the subject, in the supposition that the public would be adverse to such an Institution, as having a tendency to render the Officers of the Army a distinct military class, instead of continuing to be composed of the gentry of the country. Not (admitted his Grace) that he meant to attach to the plan in contemplation such an effect, but that it was liable to the *imputation* that it separated the Officers of the Army and their families from the other classes of the gentry of the country, of which they form a part, and that he would therefore be opposed to it.—Vide Nos. 1 and 2, pp. 7 and 8.

Trusting that a more leisure reference to the Prospectus, when printed, accompanied with some explanations which I felt it my duty to offer, would remove from his Grace's mind what I was led to regard as the mere impression of the moment, I took the liberty of addressing a second letter to his Grace, in which, among other things, I most respectfully observed, with reference to the *imputation* alluded to, that the best and most virtuous actions were liable to unjust and erroneous imputations; and that, in fact, one of the great objects in view in the proposed Institution was, to afford a chance of *preserving* in their respectable position the offspring of many a brave and high-spirited man, who—" his poverty but not his will consenting "—must otherwise often be doomed to behold the child of his hopes descend to a far lower grade in society, without the possibility of prevention or relief. And yet, that it was well known to his Grace that many were the gallant Officers who had done signal service to their king and country, whose only fortune, added to the education of a gentleman, was their *sword* and their *honor !* and that every generous and liberal British feeling forbade the supposition that an ungrateful country would regard with jealousy, or otherwise oppose, an Institution—to be mainly supported by the Army itself—having for its leading hallowed purpose the shielding of the offspring, and more particularly the Orphan Daughters, of such men from threatening penury and ruin.—Vide No. 3, p. 9.

Unhappily for the sacred cause, of which I had become the humble advocate, his Grace was never induced to honor me with any reply to this appeal; and that silence being naturally construed to indicate an adhesion to the same unfavourable impression on the subject, such was the discouraging consequence, coupled with the freezing indifference manifested in a particular quarter, where least expected, that I became sensible that to expect to move the various leading military functionaries, without the auspicious example of his Grace, would be vain, and that without *their* concurrence, to attain success would be impossible. And I, therefore, at once deemed it advisable, in deference to the Duke of Wellington's scruples, to abandon all further agitation of the subject, so long as it should please the Almighty to spare his Grace to the country of which he had so long been the pride and honor.

Need I add,—may it please your Royal Highness that I have adhered to my determination: but that now that the ashes of that illustrious individual have been consigned to an honored tomb, I cannot help feeling, that, as the humble survivor, I perform a sacred duty to my sovereign and country, in reviving my long dormant, yet not the less desirable, patriotic proposition, in the still ardent hope that the same fair proportioned prospective philanthropic structure which, more than 18 years ago, was so favourably regarded by her Majesty and her Royal Parent,

will not now be found less attractive, when her august consort can characteristically participate in the noble feeling, "that no object can be more calculated to engage their sincere sympathy than an Institution, the most prominent feature of which will be the provision of a protecting *Home* for the often friendless Orphan Daughter of the British Officer."

One humble, yet earnest word more, and I conclude my lengthened trespass on your Royal Highnesses indulgent attention. The world has lately witnessed the proudest peaceful triumph of the British nation, in the creation, under your Royal Highness's special auspices, of the unparalelled vast crystal structure which was lately the gay receptacle of the assembled productions and inhabitants of every clime! Be it also, ere long, the even nobler triumph of your Royal Highness to rear a far more enduring patriotic monument to the honor of our beloved Sovereign,—in being, under Providence, the happy instrument of calling into existence a great *National Institution* and *Orphan Asylum*, destined through succeeding ages to befriend and cherish the hopeful offspring of the brave defenders of that mighty empire on which the sun never sets.

Committing that sacred charge to your Royal Highness's all-powerful auspices, and trusting that the Almighty will guide your Royal Highness, and your august Consort, to a propitious decision of its fate, I have the honor to subscribe myself, with feelings of deep, yet hopeful anxiety, and loyal respect,

Your Royal Highness's most obedient servant,

R. Lachlan, late Major 17th Regt.

A few days after the despatch of the above Letter, the Circular and Prospectus of the Wellington Memorial issued from the Horse Guards, having been promulgated in Canada,—I felt called upon to intrude once more on his Royal Highness, as follows; and, at the same time, to address an equally earnest appeal to Lord Hardinge. With what success remains to be hereafter shewn.

No. 11.

Copy of Letter addressed to H.R.H. Prince Albert, on 25th Dec., on perusing the Circular and Prospectus of the proposed Wellington Testimonial, issued from the Horse Guards, 27th Nov., 1851.

Montreal, 25th Dec., 1852.

May it please your Royal Highness.

At the very moment of despatching the Letter and Documents which I lately ventured to do myself the high honor of transmitting to your Royal Highness,—but which deference to public feeling connected with the obsequies of the late illustrious Commander-in-Chief had delayed for several weeks,—I most unexpectedly became slightly aware, through one of the local prints, of the noble proposal in agitation in Britain for raising an imperishable Monument to the name of the great Duke of Wellington, in the form of "*A School or College for the gratuitous, or nearly gratuitous, Education of the Orphan Children of indigent*

and meritorious Officers of the Army;" and I have since been enabled to view this interesting national object, more closely, from having been permitted to peruse the Circulars which have emanated from the Earl of Derby and the Commander of the Forces.

While heartily rejoicing at so propitious an event, and wishing it every possible success—intimately identified as I have, for more than 18 years, felt myself, with a project aiming at the creation of "a great national Institution, intended more especially for the reception of the ORPHAN Children of Officers of the British Army, but so constituted as to form at the same time a highly respectable yet economical Seminary for the education of Officers Sons and daughters in general,"—it was impossible to regard without deep emotion, so unlooked for an approach to the realization of my most sanguine hopes, *under the only auspices calculated to insure success*; but it was at the same time natural that, humble as I am, I should also dare to take a scrutinizing glance at the scale and proportions of the attractive Fabric now proposed, compared with what had been so long fondly contemplated by myself. Such *has* been the case; and the result has been, my venturing, with all humility, to submit to your Royal Highness, in addition to my late intrusions, the following question as worthy of the most serious attention.

Will there not be found, on comparing the cautiously digested plan proposed by me,—as set forth in the printed Prospectus with that now in agitation,—as gathered from the documents I have seen, this very important difference, that, while the former, as far as possible, aims at that proud British principle—a Self-supporting and, in a manner, Proprietary foundation, based on well defined permanent funds, mainly furnished by the Army itself, and includes not only the provision of a congenial Asylum for ORPHANS of *both* sexes, but also an *unlimited* respectable Seminary for the education of Officers' Children generally,—the latter, though also to be assisted by contributions from the Army, appears to be less definite in character, and to reduce the stately structure intended to be raised to the humbler level of an uncertain, yet limited public eleemosynary endowment, for a certain number of Orphans only, and these—if I am to judge from the term "College"—confined to *one* sex alone;—a standard which, however benevolent may be the intention, one cannot help regarding as below the respectable position in which the Duke of Wellington was so desirous of retaining the Officers of the Army and their families, as belonging to the gentry of the country, and which might therefore be found objectionable?

If, then, there be any truth in this comparision, or weight in the supposed objection, would it not be well to take both into immediate consideration, so that whatever may be ultimately determined on, may, if possible, be divested of even the shadow of a sinister "imputation," and thereby make it thoroughly accord with the wants, as well as the feelings, of the high-minded brave men in whose behalf the generous movement is intended; and I would therefore, in all humility, venture to suggest that, before any final arrangements are attempted, a careful comparison be instituted, through a Board of General Officers and others, between the warily organized plan so long ago proposed by me, and that which has lately been so happily brought before the nation. Let that step be taken, and, whatever may be the result, every British Officer, and every other loyal British subject, will respectfully bow to the deci-

sion, and glory in being more or less instrumental in raising so proud a Memorial to the fame of the departed illustrious Duke, under the same auspicious royal patronage which, more than 18 years ago, was characteristically ready to be extended to "A protecting Home for the often friendless Orphan Daughter of the British Officer."

I may be accused by many of arrogance and presumption, in venturing to address your Royal Highness twice on such a subject, but, guided as I proudly feel myself to be, in this distant land, and at an advanced time of life—by the purest and best of motives, I am indifferent to whatever opinions may be indulged by others, provided my long cherished humble efforts in so noble a cause shall be found worthy of your Royal Highness's favorable attention,—as being alike well qualified to appreciate their hallowed patriotic object, and ready to second, with the most powerful effect, the ever active benevolence of our beloved Sovereign. In the earnest and anxious hope that such will be the case,

I have the honor to be,

With sentiments of devoted respect,

Your Royal Highness's most obedient servant,

R. Lachlan,
Late Major 17th Regt.

To Field-Marshal, His Royal Highness Prince Albert,
of Saxe Coburg, K. G. and G. C. B., &c. &c. &c.

No. 12.

Copy of Letter addressed to General the Right Honorable Lord Viscount Hardinge, &c. &c. &c., on the same occasion.

Montreal, 25th Dec., 1852.

My Lord,—It is not altogether impossible that, in the name of the writer of this letter, your Lordship may recognize the author of a Prospectus laid before the Army some 18 years ago, and of which a copy was then transmitted to your Lordship, of "*A great National Institution for the Reception of Orphan Children of Officers of the British Army,*" combined with the provision of "*a highly respectable Seminary for the Education of the Sons and Daughters of Officers in general.*" Be that as it may, circumstances connected with the prominent part assigned to your Lordship in the present well-timed appeal to the best feelings of the British nation, in behalf of a somewhat similar undertaking, has encouraged me to take the liberty of bringing the former to your Lordship's recollection, with the intention of, if possible, transmitting a copy of it, as likely to be of some service on the present occasion. But it unfortunately so happens that I find that I have only one (my *private*) copy left, with a MS. appendix attached, similar to one which accompanied a letter which I lately took the liberty of addressing to his Royal Highness Prince Albert, at a time when the present singularly auspicious movement was altogether unexpected. So situated, I have resolved to entrust the only remaining copy above alluded to, to your Lordship's

charge, in the understanding that, when no longer required, it shall be carefully returned to me, and that the letter to his Royal Highness shall in the meantime be detached, and, after perusal, remain in your Lordship's private keeping till the Prospectus is sent back to me; and, to complete the chain of information, I propose also adding a copy of a second appeal to his Royal Highness, which will proceed by the same mail that brings this letter.

Having so far prepared your Lordship, I hope I may be permitted to observe, that though willing to resign the long cherished proud hope of being, at last, personally instrumental in raising the noble Institution which I had so many years ago been the first to propose, and which, though so long unfortunately dormant, only waited the lapse of a few days after the funeral of the illustrious Duke to be zealously revived, I could not help experiencing some degree of *selfish* mortification on so unexpectedly finding the public mind already occupied with a somewhat similar undertaking, and the more so when I reflected on the trouble and anxiety I had experienced, and the expense I had incurred, added to the voluminous correspondence I had found it necessary to enter into, while engaged in maturing my plans; but this unworthy feeling speedily gave way to a more noble, patriotic impulse, which can as readily be comprehended as described.

Having now given vent to these rather diffuse introductory particulars, I have only to state, in as few words as possible, that, being still in possession of a mass of valuable miscellaneous information, from which I was enabled to put forth my Prospectus with full confidence in the correctness of the data on which the different estimates, &c., were based, and conceiving that these materials, combined with even *my* humble opinion, might be of some use at the present auspicious moment, I have thought it my duty to state that, should any Board of Officers or others, appointed to deliberate on the merits of the plan now before the public, deem my presence in London likely to be of any value, in so good a cause, I shall be most happy to embark for England without delay; or should it be judged sufficient to forward to me written queries on any particular points connected with either the great Institution proposed by me, or the more limited one now in agitation, I shall be equally ready to respond to them from hence.

How far I am likely to do justice to either of these requisitions, your Lordship will readily be able to ascertain from General Wetherall, whom I have the honor of ranking as my friend; or, upon recollection, sufficient information can be gained from your Lordship's Military Secretary, whom I had the pleasure of knowing in this country, at a rather critical period, when staunch loyalty was less at a discount than at present.*

Having so far enabled your Lordship to acquire some personal knowledge of me, I may perhaps be permitted to add, that whatever may be the fate of my own long-cherished hopes, of being instrumental in the foundation of a great benevolent and educational Institution for the benefit of the offspring of the Officers of the British Army, I shall most sincerely rejoice in the success of any approximation towards so excellent an object; but that I humbly trust that before any conclusive ar-

* Alluding to the Rebellion in 1837, at which critical period the writer was of some service in his adopted country.

rangements, connected with the plan suggested in the Circulars of the 27th ult., are attempted, every component part of the noble structure proposed by me may be thoroughly examined and considered, before being rejected. And as regards your Lordship individually, I would earnestly entreat a most attentive perusal of the latter, in all its bearings; and beg to be allowed to remark, as an accidental case in point, that though there be a wide difference between the rate of £30 per annum for each Orphan, as stated in the Prospectus of the more limited Institution now proposed, compared with from £16 to £18, as given by me, I am not the less confident that my estimate will be found well grounded, having taken every pains to arrive at correct conclusions, by references to a variety of competent authorities in public and private seminaries.

Hoping to be favoured with an acknowledgment of this communication, and cordially wishing your Lordship every success in the great and good cause in which you are so prominently engaged,

I have the honor to be

Your Lordship's most obedt. servant,

R. Lachlan, late Major 17th Regt.

To General the Right Honorable
Lord Viscount Hardinge, G.C.B.,
Commanding-in-Chief, &c. &c. &c.

To enable the reader to judge how far these letters were connected with the Circular and Prospectus issued from the Horse Guards, the following copy of the latter documents is here given.

No. 13.

Copy of Circular and Prospectus issued from the Horse Guards, 27th November, 1852.

Sir.—I have it in command to transmit, and to request you will take an early opportunity of bringing under the notice of the Officers of the under your command, the accompanying *Prospectus*, circulated with the sanction of Her Majesty, proposing to erect and endow, by public subscription, a School or College for the gratuitous, or nearly gratuitous, education of the Orphan Children of indigent and meritorious Officers of the Army, as a lasting memorial to the late illustrious Commander-in-Chief, whose name it is intended the Institution shall bear.

It is not possible to set forth the necessity of, or the benefits likely to arise to the military service from the proposed Institution, more forcibly than is done in the enclosed Circular, signed by the first Lord of the Treasury, the Earl of Derby. Viscount Hardinge therefore makes no further attempt to awaken the sympathies of the Officers of the Army in an object which he is persuaded will meet with ardent support from all quarters of the empire; but his Lordship has desired that this commu-

nication should be made to you through the usual channel, in order that they may have an opportunity of contributing to the proposed memorial, either individually or regimentally, as they may prefer. I am only to add that the benefits of the proposed Establishment, being solely intended for the Families of Officers, it is not desirable that the Non-Commissioned Officers and men should be called upon to contribute to it. In case the Officers, or any considerable portion of them should be determined to subscribe, collectively, you will be pleased to insert their names and the amount of their respective contributions in a list, which after being signed by you will be forwarded to the Honble. W. P. Talbot, in Downing Street; but those who prefer individual subscriptions are recommended to adopt the form of communication transmitted with the enclosed Circular.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) G. Brown, A. G.

PROSPECTUS.

Downing Street, ————————

Sir,—The universal desire felt by all classes to do honor to the memory of the Duke of Wellington, will probably lead to the erection of statues and other monuments in many of the principal towns in the kingdom, some of which, indeed, have already taken steps in this direction. But projects of this description, however much they may contribute to ornament the respective localities, and however gratifying they may be to the feelings of their inhabitants, can possess little more than local interest, can be joined in by comparatively few of the population, and are not calculated to confer any substantial benefit on the community. With a view to erect a monument to the memory of the great Duke to which all may contribute, which shall be worthy of its object and of the nation, and which shall be of permanent and important advantage to that service of which he was long the head and ornament, it is proposed to erect and endow by public subscription a School or College to bear the name of the Duke of Wellington, for the gratuitous, or nearly gratuitous, education of Orphan Children of indigent and meritorious Officers of the Army. Institutions, more or less national, already exist, in which the advantages of such an education can be obtained by the Children of Soldiers, of Seamen, of Naval Officers, and of the Clergy; but no such provision has been made in favor of Officers of the Army—a class of men peculiarly liable to casualities, by which their families are often left in a condition of the most painful pecuniary embarrassment, and under circumstances in which the necessary stringent regulations of the war office preclude the possibility of any relief from public funds.

The execution of the proposed plan, and the scale upon which it can be undertaken, must depend on the degree of support given by the country to the object contemplated. It may be assumed that each capital sum sub-

scribed of £1000, representing a permanent annuity of about £30, will provide for all time to come, exclusive of the expense of building, for the education of one Child ; and a considerable sum will be required for the erection of a building which shall be worthy of the proposed object. No payment will be required until the total sum subscribed shall amount to £100,000, when application is proposed to be made for vesting the capital in trustees, to be nominated, in the first instance, by her Majesty, from among the subscribers, and to be incorporated, as in the case of Harrows, Rugby, the Charter House, and others.

Donations may be payable by instalments, spread over two, three, or four years.

Her Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert have been pleased to signify their approval of the project, and to place their names at the head of the subscription list, for the respective sums of £1000 and £500.

I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed) DERBY.

Should you approve of the proposed project, you are requested to subscribe your name to the enclosed form ; insert the sum it is your intention to subscribe ; and direct it to the Honorable W. P. Talbot, No. 10 Downing Street, London.

The only reply to the letter to Lord Hardinge is contained in the following Letter from Colonel Airey, Private Secretary to his Lordship, dated 6th May, 1853.

No. 14.

Horse Guards, 6th May 1853.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have to thank you for your letter of the 18th ult., which duly reached me on the 3rd instant, by which I am glad to find that the country (Canada), is in so improving a condition, and that you and your family are benefitting by your residence at Montreal.

Lord Hardinge had received your letter of the 25th December last, with a Prospectus of a proposed Military Institution for the Education of the Sons and Daughters of Officers of the British Army, but which, owing to the multifarious duties which press upon him, his Lordship omitted to acknowledge.

He has, however, begged of me to convey to you the expression of his thanks for your suggestions.

Believe me, my Dear Sir,

Very faithfully yours,

RICHARD AIREY.

The next document on the record is a letter addressed to the Editor of the Naval and Military Gazette, dated 9th February, 1853, vindicating my claim to being the original projector of a great National Institution for the reception of Orphans of Officers of the British Army, and for the Education of their Children generally, which may be allowed to speak for itself.

No. 15.

To the Editor of the Naval and Military Gazette:

Sir,—My attention having been drawn to a "Notice to Correspondents," in your Number of the 23rd ultimo, relating to the proposed Wellington Testimonial, coupled with a paragraph in your previous Number on the same subject, in both of which I find myself personally alluded to, I trust I may be permitted to claim such space in your columns as will enable me to advert to both.*

With respect to the latter, as first in date, there must be many old Officers still living, who can vouch for the fact of my being able to claim the merit—if any—of having truly been the originator of "The Great National Institution" therein alluded to; and of this unquestionable evidence will also be found in the files of your own and the *United Service Journal* of February and March, 1834, in both of which my project was freely discussed, and (I gratefully remember) powerfully advocated, until objections were raised by a vitally influential individual, which induced me to abandon all further agitation of the matter during the life of the late illustrious Commander-in-Chief. Suffice it to add, on this head, that I adhered to my resolution; but that, being providentially the survivor, the subject has been revived in a high and auspicious quarter since the Duke of Wellington's lamented decease; and that I am led to cherish a hope that the happy result may be an amalgamation of the very meritorious and philanthropic, though minor project, intended to be honored with the name of "The Wellington Testimonial," with the far more extended and comprehensive, yet congenial Institution planned by me, by which a truly noble fabric will, ere long, be prefected, that will be found alike worthy of the august patronage of our beloved Sovereign, of the great name of the Illustrious Chief whose irreparable loss the nation now deplores, and of the cordial acceptation, and hearty permanent support of every Officer of the British Army.

You may perceive, from the foregoing observations, that I take it for granted, that, however excellent the Institution of late proposed may be, so far as it goes, it must be regarded, at best, as a limited eleemosynary endowment, or, in other words, *a Charity School*, for the reception of a certain number of, say 100 Officers' Orphans, confined to one sex only; whereas, the great educational and benevolent Institution projected by me,—embracing at least 1,000 children of both sexes,—was to be mainly based on a proud, *self-supporting* principle, the benefits of which every British Officer might *claim* for his children, without any mortification of his feelings, either "as an Officer or a gentleman,"

To enable the general reader to understand thoroughly this nice yet

* The paragraph here particalarly alluded to, consisted of the following extract from "Notice to Correspondents" in the Naval and Military Gazette, of 22d January., 1853:—

'A Soldier' writes—"'I can most distinctly vouch for the fact, that the foundation of an Institution for the education of Officers of the Army was discussed constantly in the Garrison of Woolwich so long back as 1822; and that, therefore, Major Lachlan must go further back than 18 years if he claims the merit of the suggestion. As to connecting the Institution with the name of Wellington that is another affair.' We said last week that Major Lachlan published a pamphlet on the subject 18 years ago, but if our recollection does not mislead us, we had conversation with him on the subject of his plan many years before; and further, that it was discussed in our columns."

very influential distinction, it would be almost necessary to go into the whole merits of the case, as embodied in the carefully digested *Prospectus*, published and circulated by me, now 19 years ago, at great trouble and expense; but that being impossible, I may be allowed to observe, that considering the great National importance of the subject, it might be desirable to have the pamphlet re-printed in London, for general circulation; and were I in Britain I would willingly do so; but comparatively in the dark as I must be in this distant land, it would be folly in me to attempt it. All, therefore, that I can do is to throw out the suggestion, and to offer up, at the same time, my fervent prayer for the success of the noble work in agitation.

With regard to the remarks of your Correspondent, "A Soldier,"—quoted as writing that "he can most distinctly vouch for the fact that *an Institution*, for the education of children of Officers of the Army, was discussed constantly in the Garrison of Woolwich so long ago as 1822, and that therefore Major Lachlan must go farther back than 18 years, if he claims the merit of the suggestion,"—it is only necessary to state, that I also "can most distinctly vouch for the fact," that I was serving with my Regiment in India at the time mentioned by him, and could therefore know nothing of what was then passing in Woolwich Garrison; and that though I came to England in the following year, and was quartered in the neigbouring Garrison of Chatham, I never heard of anything of the kind; and that, in fact, I brought the idea with me from India—not as altogether new—but, from having for many years witnessed the blissful results of a somewhat similar Institution, as far as Orphans are concerned, most successfully supported by my brother Officers of the Hon. E. I. Co.'s Service on the Bengal Establishment. I may also add that I can produce documents to prove that my project was in progress from the moment of my return to England, and that the rough draft of the Prospectus was actually in the possession of Sir Herbert Taylor, Private Secretary to His late Majesty William IV, for more than 9 months, in 1831-2, and that I have reason to believe that it was seen, and favourably regarded by that Monarch.

Should the above not be sufficient to re-establish my claim to being, at the very least, the original proposer of the Great National Institution alluded to, I must leave it to others to do me justice; and shall in the mean time rest content with looking back upon my humble exertions in so excellent a cause with unalloyed satisfaction, and at the same time looking forward with ardent hope to the ultimate modification and adaptation of its general outline and principles to some equally noble educational Institution, destined to prove a lasting benefit and blessing to the offspring of the Officers of the whole British Army.

Trusting to the importance of the subject pleading my excuse for having, in this remote land, trespassed so much on your space, I for the present confidently leave to you and other talented writers on the spot, the successful advocacy of the great object now so happily revived.

Yours, &c., &c.,

R. Lachlan,
Late Major 17th Regt.

In the meantime, I rejoice to say, the subscriptions to the Wellington Memorial had, happily continued to flow in so successfully as, by the month of December last, to have reached the proposed minimum of £100,000, and thereby warranted the granting of a *Royal Charter* of Incorporation to the Institution, as "*a College for the Education of the Children of deceased Military Officers who have borne Commissions either in the Royal Army or in the E. I. Co.'s Service;*" (?) and constituting the following illustrious and distinguished individuals Governors of the same, viz.:—

Prince Albert, the Duke of Cambridge, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Duke of Buccleuch, the Duke of Northumberland, the Duke of Wellington, the Marquis of Lansdowne, the Marquis of Salisbury, the Marquis of Anglesey, the Marquis of Dalhousie, the Earl of Derby, the Earl of Aberdeen, the Earl of Ellenborough, the Earl of Ellesmere, Lord John Russell, Viscount Hardinge, Viscount Gough, the Bishop of London, Lord Seaton, Lord Raglan, Mr Sidney Herbert, Sir James Graham, Mr. Spencer Walpole, Sir Howard Douglas, Sir Edmund Antrobus, Sir James Weir Hogg, Sir Alexander Woodford, Mr. Henry Richard Cox, Mr. Peter Richard Hoare, and the Rev. George Robert Gleig. *The Queen to be the Visitor of the College.* Every Governor hereafter elected by the body to fill vacancies, must be approved of by the Secretary of State. The Duke of Wellington, the Commander in Chief, the Master of the Ordnance, and the Secretary-at-War, for the time being, will be always Governors. The charter is dated the 13th December, 1853.

Such being the auspicious prospects of the much-favored Wellington Memorial, I could not help naturally feeling that the time was now arrived when, even in connection with that Institution, I might reasonably expect that my long known, warily elaborated suggestions in behalf of an identically similar, though far more extended, philanthropic foundation, would attract some degree of attention in the high quarters to which Nos. 11, 12 and 13 were addressed; and I was accordingly induced to transmit the following respectful letter to the Private Secretary of H.R. H. Prince Albert:—

No. 16.

Montreal, Canada, 23rd Feb., 1854.

Sir,—Having more that a year ago been induced to take the liberty of most respectfully addressing two communications to His Royal Highness Prince Albert, on a very important subject—of which I have not yet been honored with any acknowledgment,—may I be permitted, through you, to bring the circumstance to His Royal Highness's remembrance, in behalf of the humble *Pioneer* of a proposed great National Institution having in view philanthropic objects similar to the Wellington College, lately so happily organized,—namely, "*a Royal Military Institution, and Officers' Orphan Asylum*"; and to express a respectful hope that some of the features sketched in the printed Prospectus which

accompanied one of the communications alluded to, will not be found altogether unworthy of attention by the distinguished Governors and Directors of the more fortunate College.

At all events, having devoted years of anxious reflection and labour, added to considerable expense, to the perfecting and wide circulation of the Prospectus referred to, and the Project having at the time—now 19 years ago—been deemed worthy of being honored with the prospective patronage of Her Majesty and Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, I cannot help feeling that it would have been most gratifying to me, to have been honored by His Royal Highness with some acknowledgment that my patriotic efforts, though not crowned with success, were still favorably regarded in the same high quarter.

I have the honor to be,

Your most obedient servant,

R. Lachlan, late Major 17th Regt.

To the Private Secretary of
H. R. H. Prince Albert,
&c. &c. &c.

To this letter, after an interval of near four months, the following reply was obtained, through General Wetherall :—

No. 17.

Buckingham Palace, 7th June, 1854.

My Dear General,—I return Major Lachlan's letter, which I have read to H. R. H. Prince Albert.

H. R. H. begs you will assure the Major that he would be sorry if he should attribute the omission of any acknowledgment of previous communications to any want of either interest in the subject to which they referred, or of a due sense of the Major's praiseworthy exertions in the cause.

The omission must have been entirely accidental, and must have been owing to the number of other communications which H. R. H. is daily receiving, and among which these may have been overlooked.

H. R. H. however, has always felt himself precluded from giving his support or patronage to any scheme which has not already received such a measure of public support as to place its success beyond doubt.

Believe me,

Yours very truly,

C. Grey.

Major Genl. Wetherall, C.B., &c.

In the mean time, the distinguished Governors of the Wellington College appear to have entered zealously on their labors, and to have, after due deliberation, promulgated a "*Report*," which I have never been so fortunate as to meet with in this country, but of which I lately noticed the following, to me unsatisfactory, outline, in a Provincial Educational Journal :—

No. 18.

Extract from the Journal of Education of Upper Canada.

WELLINGTON COLLEGE.

The Governors of the Military School proposed to be established in memory of the Duke of Wellington, have published their Report.—The gross amount of Subscriptions promised is £105,760, of which £11,000 (£4,500 is in England, and the Colonies, and £6,500 in India) remains to be paid in. It is suggested that a public Edifice be erected for the Education of Orphans, the sons of officers in Her Majesty's and the East India Company's armies.—The estimates are formed upon £100,000 as the net Capital of the Institution. To the erection and furnishing of the Building £20,000 will be set apart ; £80,000 will thus remain for the endowment, which upon a mortgage of unquestionable security will bring £2,950.—It is proposed to place upon the foundation at least 60 Boys, who may be clothed, maintained, and educated for 3,£600 annually. There will be 3 classes, containing 20 Boys each. An annual payment of £10, £15, and £20 will be paid with each Boy, according to his position in the 1st, 2d, or 3d, class, respectively, thus producing £900, making the total receipts £3,850, leaving a surplus of £250, to be applied as may seem good. Further, an extension of the original design is proposed : the formation of a 4th class, to comprise 40 Boys, at an annual payment of £30 each.—This would give a further amount of £1,200 ; the expenses would reach £920 ; and £280 would remain to provide for an increased Educational Staff.—For the last named class it is proposed that though Orphans are to have the preference, the sons of Officers serving in the army will be likewise eligible. Thus, subsidiary to the primary object of the Institution, there would be provided what the service has felt the want of—a public School well adapted for the Sons of Officers, where they might be admitted for fixed moderate rates of payment. The regulations provide that the religious worship and teaching be accordant with the doctrine and principles of the Church of England, but not to be compulsory on those who object on the grounds of religious dissent. A master will be specially charged with the religious instruction of the Scholars. The general instruction will include a good English and Classical Education ; scientific knowledge, having special application to the arts, commerce, and industry, of the Country ; and the modern languages. A site well adapted for the Establishment has been offered gratuitously by Mr. Gibson of Farnborough in Hampshire. It has been visited by a deputation of Governors, and will probably be accepted. The Governors express their conviction that ultimate success both for charitable and useful purposes, will depend mainly on the excellence of the education imparted, and trust by their efforts to lay the foundation of an institution worthy the memory of the great Duke, as well as beneficial to the Service.

CONCLUSION.

Having completed the plain unvarnished narrative of facts contained in the various documents enumerated in the introduction to these pages, and thereby redeemed my long self-imposed pledge to the Officers of the British Army, as the zealous though humble advocate of the cause of their unprotected Orphans, I willingly leave my readers to come to an impartial decision on the general merits of the important question at issue; and, warned by the advanced age of "three score years and ten," that it is time to retire from all further exciting exertions, even in so good a cause,—I take the liberty of concluding my unwilling intrusion upon the public in a few candid valedictory words, expressive of the feelings of deep mortification with which I contemplate so contracted a decision as that arrived at by the Governors of the Wellington College, as alike unworthy of the British Army and Nation, and of the illustrious name which that Institution is intended to bear; while I would fain indulge a hope that all concerned in the advancement of so noble a work will yet pause—though even at the eleventh hour—at so eventful a war-like crisis as the present—and generously co-operate in *setting matters right:* ever bearing in mind that as the illustrious Commander, whose memory the nation delighteth to honor, laid it down as an axiom, that "Britain should never engage in *a little war*"—so it equally behoves the same great country never to condescend to take a *narrow view of a truly philanthropic* NATIONAL *object;* and, therefore, that any proposal aiming at the foundation of an Institution for the benefit of the *Orphan* SONS of her gallant defenders, without bestowing a single passing thought upon the far more urgent claims to consideration of their too often unfortunate unprotected *Orphan* DAUGHTERS, is altogether unworthy of a great, a grateful, or a liberal-minded people.